河内和泉

私は大雑把にいうと、
美人と天才が好きです。ものすごい、好きです。
多分に相対的な話かもしれませんがまあ、
素敵ですよね、美人と天才。両方だと尚いいです。
言いたいこととしては
持ってないものに憧れるようにできてるんだ！
ということで。
エイスはそういうお話です！(!?)

IZUMI KAWACHI

エイス EIGHTH

河内和泉

The Eighth [illegible]

1

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雑誌48121-62
定価：本体581円＋税
SQUARE ENIX.

科学のこと。
世の中のこと。
女の子のこと――。
まだまだ知らないことが、
たくさんあるから…。
セキュリティガードの少年・ナオヤが
未知なる領域を切り開く!!
遺伝子工学の世界を舞台に繰り広げられる
「らせんに纏わるおとぎ話」、ここに開幕!!

GC JOKER
EIGHTH エイス
7
河内和泉
SC

エイス
EIGHTH
河内和泉
The Eighth Day of Creation
1

SQUARE ENIX

FIGHTER RESEARCH

FILE 01

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SFX: FLOP FLOP
ペタ
ゴゴ
MIRACLE GIRL?
YES, IT'S THE ONE FROM SICILIA.
ゴゴ
カ
カ
SFX: BEEP
NO, FROM BOTH OF THE GIRL'S PARENTS
... AND HQ GOT WIND OF IT
ピ
WHERE'S THIS FROM?
HQ?

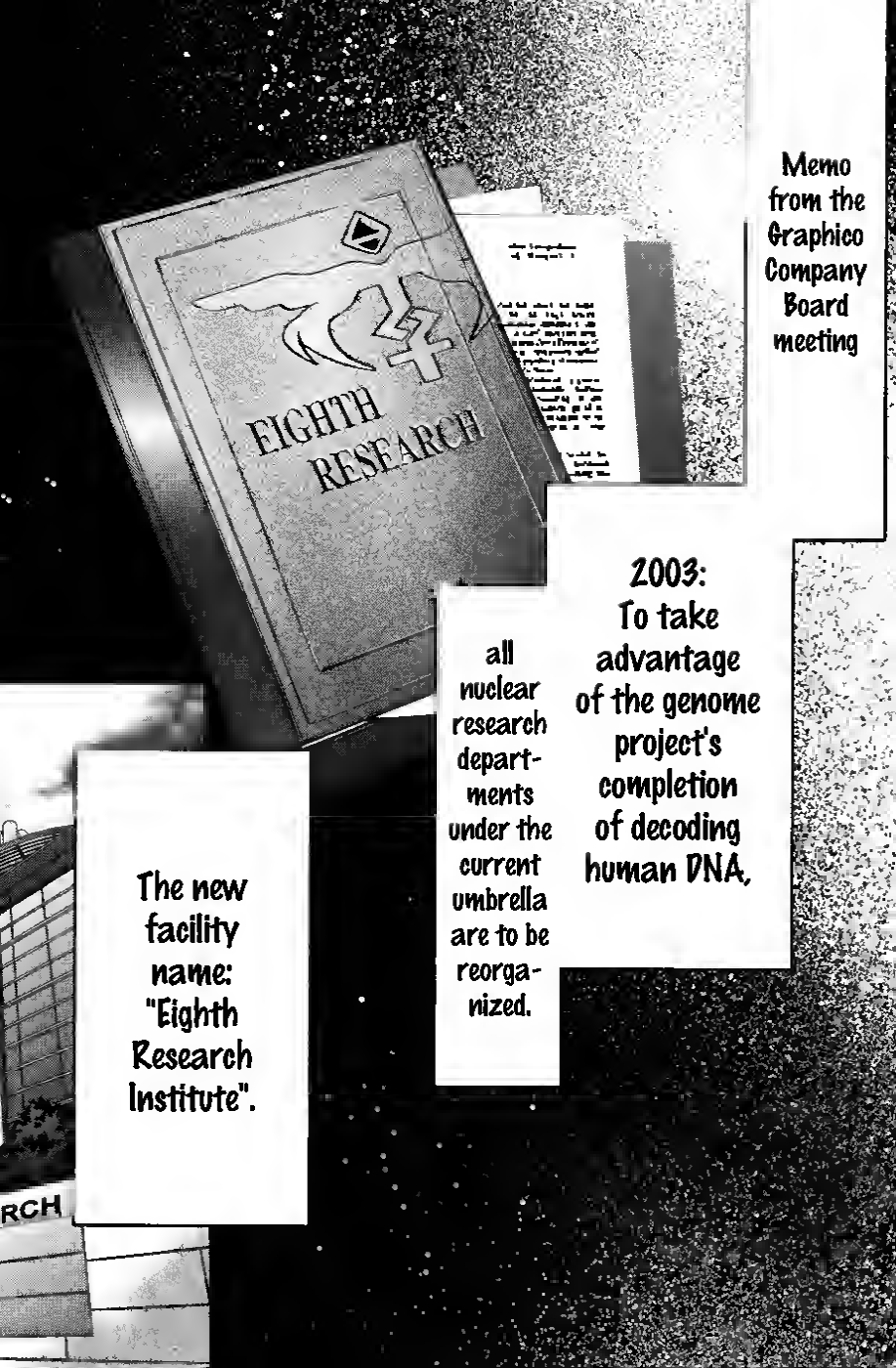
SFX: BEEP BEEP
NO NO, WON'T WORK.
HOWEVER MUCH WE MIGHT WANT TO SAVE THE GIRL, OTHER PEOPLE WILL FIND OUT ABOUT IT.
THEY GONNA MAKE A FUSS?
THAT'S WHY IT'S HUSH-HUSH.
SO THEN, I JUST QUASH THIS STORY?
DESPITE THE PARENTS' SORROWFUL REQUEST?
OKAY, OKAY, THERE'S SOMEONE HERE TODAY WITH TIME ON HIS HANDS, RIGHT?
SO SEND THAT ONE OFF ON A "VACATION".
SORRY?
CHIEF!
YOU GOT IT.

TELL NAOYA GRAPHICO TO TAKE A THREE-DAY TOUR OF ROME,
AND IF HE FINDS THE GIRL, TO BRING HER BACK ♡
YOU'RE SENDING NAOYA-KUN?!
Ehe-he
DON'T QUESTION MY DECISION.
I DIDN'T SAY ANY-THING LIKE THAT!

WHAT DO YOU THINK, MEN?
NO PROB-LEM.
I AGREE.
NAOYA WILL DO QUITE WELL.

SFX: SMILE
ニィ
RIGHT,
DECI-
SION'S
MADE!
LATER.
I'LL LEAVE
THE DETAILS
TO YOU,
MARI-CHAN.
21st
Century

A fairy tale, twisted like a spiral.


Memo from the Graphico Company Board meeting
EIGHTH RESEARCH
2003: To take advantage of the genome project's completion of decoding human DNA,
all nuclear research departments under the current umbrella are to be reorganized.
The new facility name: "Eighth Research Institute".

"For a better future",

Eighth Research Institute will maximize its corporate value as well.

This unique bio-business in particular requires high specialization and rapid response.

The nature of such independent decisions is made stronger when considered as an entire institution.

(Any pre-authorization by the parent company is not required)

Develop-ments are being made in related technologies and products that use the genetic data of all forms of life.

Genetic engineering by developing fields relating to biotechnological research

is not limited to the medical field (genes, cells).

THE TERM "EIGHTH"
REFERS TO THE NUMBER 8, SPECIFICALLY THE "8TH DAY".
THE NUMBER 8?
RIGHT.
THE BIBLE SAYS IT TOOK GOD 7 DAYS TO MAKE THE WORLD, AND THE 7TH DAY WAS SUNDAY.
IT IS THE DAY AFTER THAT,
A NEW DAY, THAT IS APART FROM GOD.

GOT IT?
IT DOESN'T MATTER...
I'M NOT A BELIEVER IN CHRIST ANYWAY.
RATHER,
THINGS ARE NOT PREORDAINED BY GOD, SO FROM NOW ON...
NAOYA...
YOU TOO WILL DECIDE THINGS FOR YOURSELF.

When I become stronger...
I...
I want to protect everyone!
Because so many people have helped me.

What's more,

in order to ensure the safety of
the research staff, as well as
research documents, internal
records, and company secrets,

a high level security
system will be implemented.

Operation.1 奇跡の少女
MIRACLE GIRL

He-ey there.
Rise and shine, Naoya-kun!
CAN I HAVE ANOTHER, ONEE-SAN? ♡
Ehe he-he-he
z z z
My my, what awful sleep-talking.
A LINE OF BIKINI-CLAD HOTTIES ARE WALKING DOWN MAIN STREET.
WHERE?!
Like that would ever happen. Wake up already.
ズル
ズル
ズル
AAAAH, DAMMIT!
MARI-SAN, YOU CHEAT-ER!!
SFX: DRAG DRAG DRAG

WHAAAAAAA--!
Eighth Research
Eighth Security Guard Quarters
I HAVE TO WORK TODAY!?
Yup.
YESTERDAY I WORKED A SLEEPLESS NIGHT-SHIFT, GOT IT? HELL, I JUST GOT BACK!
THIS ISN'T FAIR!!
Got it, Naoya-kun?
Look, we don't have time - the decision has been made.

あっ
THAT REMINDS ME, DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU'D GO ON A DATE WITH ME ON YOUR NEXT BREAK?
I'LL GO IF WE DO THAT!
WHEN YOU SAY IT LIKE THAT, DON'T COMPLAIN IF IT IS MISINTERPRETED...
HEY! HOLD ON!
Young'uns recuperate so fast.
うおお
PUT MORE THOUGHT INTO IT WHEN YOU TALK LIKE THAT!!
WHOA!!
ニヨぬ
As I recall, I said "If Naoya-kun takes his work seriously..."
Kinda.
OH, I GET IT. IF THEY NEED A JOB DONE RIGHT, THEY HAVE ME DO IT, SO INSTEAD OF WORKING NIGHTS NOW I'LL HAVE TO WORK FULL DAYS IN SUCCESSION.
ぐったり
I ALWAYS TAKE MY WORK SERIOUSLY.
YOU'RE HORRIBLE.
SFX: COLLAPSE

It's not just that everybody depends on you.
Everyone says they feel safer with you around.
That's why I work the shifts together with you. ♡
.....
...!-
I'M REALLY GETT-ING SCREWED AGAIN...
I'M JUST SAYING THAT I'D LIKE A REST ONCE IN AWHILE.
Hm... Even so, they've asked for you.
It's not too late to hear a bit about the case, is it?
GEEZ, WHAT IS IT?
SFX: SCRUNCH
"Act as the sole bodyguard of a girl while escorting her to her parents".
That's the job. Here's the file.
Name: Celcia
Age: 16
SFX: RUSTLE

ERM... IF SHE HASN'T BEEN FOUND, WHAT DO I DO?
That's okay. We found the girl's whereabouts through HQ.
WHOA...
WHAT ABOUT THE POLICE?
When she disappeared, her parents made a request for an investigation.
Seems they couldn't find her.
HUH? ROME?!
RESEARCH FACILITY?!
That's right. It's the research facility's genetic engineering division.
WHAT THE...?
HMMM...
At the research facility of a company in Rome.
HEY, THAT'S AWESOME.
SO WHERE IS SHE?
Yup, you got it.
Sure, the location is a bit unusual, but the job itself isn't really different from the norm.
NO WAY NO HOW! NOW JUST WAIT...!
WHA?! I GO THERE AND ESCORT THE GIRL BACK?!

I'M AN "EIGHTH RESEARCH SECURITY GUARD", RIGHT?!
IT'S NOT THAT IT'S AN UNUSUAL LOCATION.
ERM ...
Hey, I'm begging you. There's nobody else that can do it.
They may be our rivals, but there are records of them visiting us before.
Oh, it's not that strange.
AND FOR A RIVAL RESEARCH FACILITY?
SO WHY AM I BEING SENT OUTSIDE EIGHTH FOR ESCORT DUTY?
I'VE REALLY HIT MY LIMIT.
THE OTHER PEOPLE IN THE EIGHTH GUARDS ARE ALL EXCELLENT TOO.
SFX: SIGH
IF IT'S SUCH A BIG DEAL, I CAN'T POSSIBLY DO A MISTAKE-FREE JOB AS I AM.
I REALLY HAVEN'T SLEPT AT ALL.
Perhaps ...
I'LL AGREE IT SOUNDS EASY, BUT...
THEY'RE DOING IT TO ME AGAIN
SFX: SCRUNCH

Okay, then after you complete this job and return...
I'll sleep with you ♡
...or would you rather...
sleep alone?
Maybe I'm just a turn-off?
... N-
NO WAY IN HELL ARE YOU A TURN-OFF!!
I'LL DO IT! I'LL DO IT!! I'M OFF! SEE YOU!!
AHA HAH AHA HAH AHA
Niiice! Good luck, and come back safely!!

ゴオオ
THEY DID IT TO ME AGAIN...
.....
AND JUST WHAT'S WITH THIS JOB?
IF HER WHEREABOUTS ARE KNOWN, THE PARENTS SHOULD BE GOING.
THERE'S SOMETHING DANGEROUS ABOUT THIS...
THAT WOMAN HASN'T KEPT A SINGLE PROMISE, EVER.
AND I ALREADY KNEW IT!!
I'M BEING SCREWED AGAIN!

THIS CELCIA GIRL...
WHY WAS SHE FOUND IN A RESEARCH FACILITY LIKE THAT?
SHE SEEMS LIKE A NORMAL GIRL.
CUTE TOO...
SLIDE
OOPS.
WHAT'S THIS?
Is it from Mari-san?
"AT THE TARGET RESEARCH LAB, YOU WILL POSE AS AN ELITE RESEARCHER BEING ASSIGNED THERE".
"PLEASE USE THIS METHOD TO INFILTRATE"...?
...AN ELITE RESEARCHER?!
Just act normal and I think it'll be okay. Don't let them find out! Be careful! Good Luck -Mari
.....
OF COURSE THEY'LL FIND OUT!
DAMMIT! JUST YOU WAIT TILL I GET BACK ...!!

Outskirts of Rome
Leon Company
Leon Research Facility
AH, HI!
WELCOME TO THE LEON RESEARCH FACILITY!
わっはっはっ
AHA-HAHA, NO, NO, NOT AT ALL!
WHAT'S CIT?
He doesn't look the part at all!
SO YOU'RE NAOYA-KUN! GRADUATING NEXT YEAR FROM CIT, I HEAR. TRULY AN ELITE STUDENT!
I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF READING YOUR THESIS, AND WOW, WAS THAT WONDERFUL MATERIAL!
SFX: WAHAHAHA
CIT = CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (CALTECH)
I'D LIKE TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS ON ALL KINDS OF THINGS, BUT FIRST, LET ME SHOW YOU THE RESEARCH LAB.
SFX: CLICK
AH, WELL, YOU KNOW HOW IT IS...
WH-WHOSE THESIS WAS IT, I WON-DER...

I THINK YOU'VE HEARD ALREADY, BUT OUR COMPANY PROVIDES MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FOR GENETIC ENGINEERING AND CELL CULTURE PROCESSES.
THIS INSTITUTE IS ESPECIALLY FOR THE CULTURE TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT GROUPS HERE CONDUCTING RESEARCH.
I SEE...
SFX: TAP-TAP
WE HAVE VARIOUS FINISHED PRODUCTS, BUT RIGHT NOW WE'RE USING ARTIFICIAL MATERIALS TO REPRODUCE CORNEAL EPITHELIAL STEM CELLS AND IMPLANT THEM INTO THE CORNEA. ALSO FOR OTHER BODY PARTS...
.....
WHAT'S WRONG?
NO... IT'S NOTHING.
AH HELL...! I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING HE JUST SAID...
Probably
something to do with eyes...
YEAH, THE SOONER I FIND WHERE CELCIA IS THE FASTER I CAN GET THIS JOB OVER WITH!!
'--- AND SUCH. SO, WHAT DO YOU...
...HUH?

OKAY NOW... ABOUT A FLOOR PLAN...
I BET IF I WENT TO THE ADMIN OFFICE... THEY MIGHT GIVE ME ONE...
SFX: TAP
I'LL LOOK THIS WAY FOR A FLOOR PLAN OF THE INTERIOR!
Whoa, that was close! I'd better get out of here before I'm discovered.
SFX: TAP TAP TAP TAP
SFX: DASH
EASIER SAID THAN DONE...
YEAH, WELL...
MAYBE I SHOULD FIND OUT A BIT MORE ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON HERE...
AS SECURITY, I'M CONSTANTLY LOOKING AROUND THE INSIDE OF EIGHTH, BUT...
SO THIS IS A GENETIC ENGINEERING RESEARCH LAB...

"GENETICS" MEANS CELL ALTERATION?
NO, IT'D BE MORE LIKE "CULTURES"
YOUNG WOMEN
TOTAL HOTTIES
YOU CAN DO WHAT YOU LIKE
CUL-TURE WOULD BE LIKE INDUCING GROWTH...
AND IT'S PERFECTLY FINE
...CLONES ...?

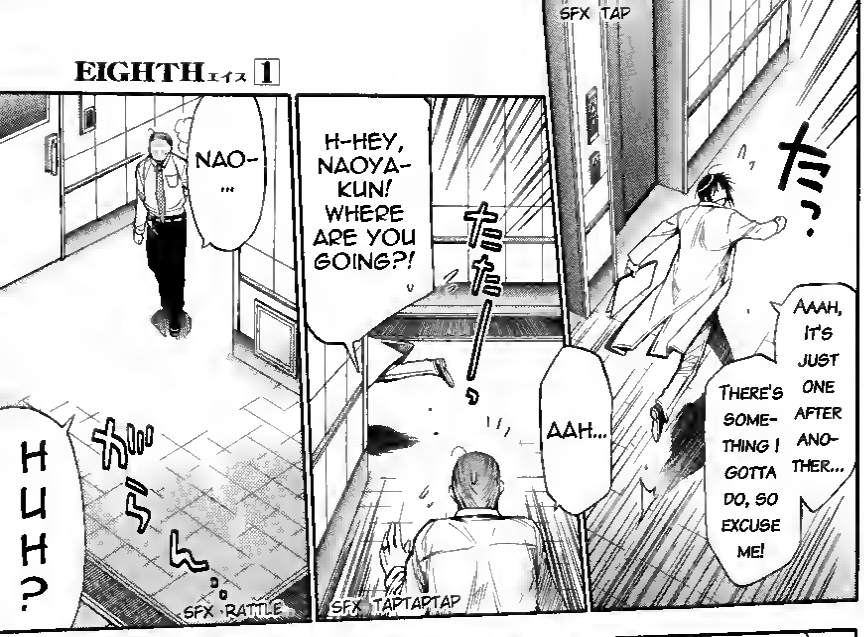
The biggest problem is that there are people who actually think like that here.
NAH...
I JUST THINK THAT THE "CUTE ONEE-SAN" IS AN IMPORTANT TRAIT TO PASS ONTO FUTURE GENERATIONS.

WAAAAH! MARI-SAN?!!
I meant that cloning a human wouldn't work, Naoya-kun.
There's something I forgot to give you.
Hi!
WHY THE HELL ARE YOU HERE?!?
UH... HUH?

Here! A floor plan of the facility ♡
VOILA!
WHOA!
IT'S JUST LIKE YOU TO BE IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME, MARI-SAN.
I know, right?
えへっ♡
JUST WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR! THANK YOU!
WITH THIS, FINDING CELCIA WILL TAKE NO TIME AT ALL!
NOW WHERE COULD SHE BE...?
Oh, it won't be marked down. It's just an ordinary floor plan.
Tracking her down is your job ♡
UHM.. DID YOU COME ALL THE WAY TO ITALY JUST TO BRING ME THIS?!
What's with that attitude? And here I thought you were in trouble and brought it for you.
Phew
Wash! There really aren't any markings or anything!
Fine! Give it back then!
おっ
おっおっ
AW GEEZ, I'M SORRY! I'LL USE IT ALREADY!
IS SHE A KID?

SFX: FLIP
MMMM...
HM?
B5F-W
MATERIALS
HEY, MARI-SAN, THIS FLOOR SEEMS TO BE...
!
SFX: MENACING STARE

I guess there should be some, right? People are concerned about intruders like Naoya-kun.
Well
Well
..Wh-
WHAT, WAS THAT GUY JUST NOW A SECURITY GUARD...?
SCARY
IF EVEN MARI-SAN CAN JUST WALTZ IN HERE, THEY CAN'T BE ALL THAT.
コツ..
.....
NAOYA-KUN! WHERE'D YOU GO? THIS WAY!
GEH-...! OH SH--
ギク"
WHA?!
Y-...YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY?!
That was really it?!
Say what?
HEY!!
Okay, I'll head on back.
Good luck, Naoya-kun!
♡
Bye-bye!
♡

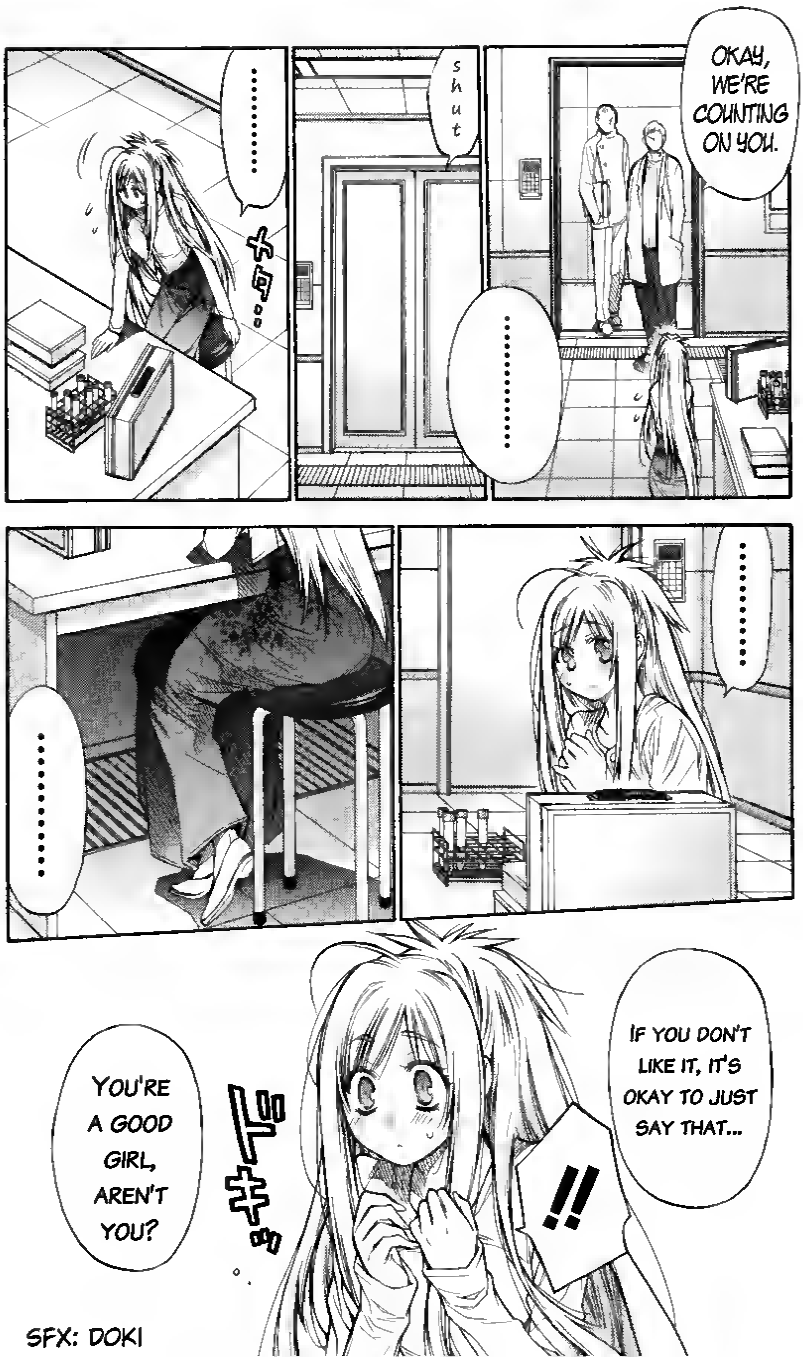

NAO-...
H-HEY, NAOYA-KUN! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
SFX TAP
AAH...
AAAH, IT'S JUST ONE AFTER ANO-THER...
THERE'S SOME-THING I GOTTA DO, SO EXCUSE ME!
HUH?
SFX RATTLE
SFX TAPTAPTAP

ERM... EXCITABLE KID...
I SWEAR.. I DON'T UNDER-STAND KIDS NOWADAYS AT ALL...

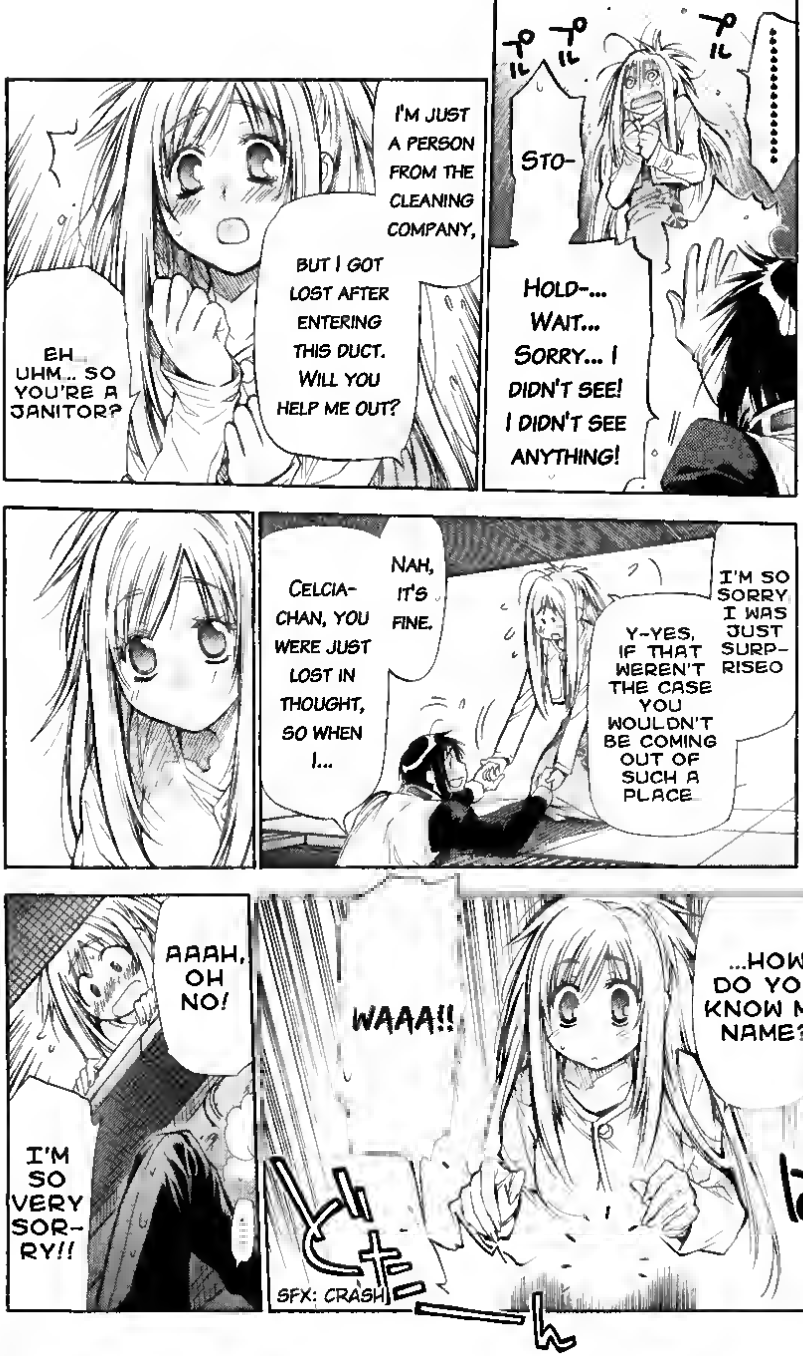
...WELL EXCUSE ME FOR BEING ONE OF THOSE "KIDS NOW-ADAYS"...
click

...BUT THANKS TO THAT... I'VE FOUND A GOOD SPOT.
THIS IS A PASSAGE-WAY FOR THE ELECTRIC POWER CABLING FOR THAT ELEVATOR BACK THERE.
SHITTY SECURITY...
THE FACILITY... THIS IS SUSPICIOUS... SUB LEVEL 5 IS MATERIAL STORAGE,
AND ODDLY ENOUGH IT'S MORE NARROW THAN OTHER FLOORS...
THERE MIGHT BE A HIDDEN-ROOM DOWN THERE...
5F
...IF THAT'S THE CASE, COULDN'T IT BE FOR CONFINE-MENT?
I DON'T HAVE ANY CONCRETE PROOF... BUT IT'S WORTH TAKING A LOOK.
And if it is there it'll be a problem
...I'M COMING TO SAVE YOU, CELCIA-CHAN.

B-5
...OKAY, CELCIA...
NEXT WILL BE ALL OF THESE.
I'LL BE BACK IN 3 HOURS TO PICK THEM UP. CAN YOU FINISH BY THEN?
...OH... YES SIR...
SFX: KA-SHA


OKAY, WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU.
shut
.....
.....
.....
.....
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, IT'S OKAY TO JUST SAY THAT...
!!
YOU'RE A GOOD GIRL, AREN'T YOU?
SFX: DOKI

WH-WHO ARE YOU?!
AAAAH, DON'T MOVE!!
!?
.....
EH... HUH?
M... MY SKIRT?!
COULD YOU LIFT THE EDGE OF YOUR SKIRT A BIT FOR ME?
I'D JUST LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ASK...
SFX: SURPRISE! SHOCK
WAAH!
...
HEY,
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU, CELCIA...


I'M JUST A PERSON FROM THE CLEANING COMPANY,
BUT I GOT LOST AFTER ENTERING THIS DUCT. WILL YOU HELP ME OUT?
EH... UHM... SO YOU'RE A JANITOR?
PO
IL
PO
IL
PO
IL
STO-
HOLD-... WAIT... SORRY... I DIDN'T SEE! I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING!
CELCIA-CHAN, YOU WERE JUST LOST IN THOUGHT, SO WHEN I...
NAH, IT'S FINE.
Y-YES, IF THAT WEREN'T THE CASE YOU WOULDN'T BE COMING OUT OF SUCH A PLACE
I'M SO SORRY I WAS JUST SURP-RISED
AAAH, OH NO!
I'M SO VERY SOR-RY!!
WAAA!!
SFX: CRASH
...HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?
?

えへっ
ME?
SO YOU'RE A JANI-TOR... IS THAT RIGHT?
I'M NAOYA. IT'S A PLEASURE!
I'M SORRY
AH... IT'S OKAY.
IT WAS JUST SO SUDDEN...
はぁ…
ふぅ…
...THAT'S NOT WHAT I...
NOT AT ALL.
I'VE COME TO RESCUE YOU FROM THIS PLACE ♡
I'M JUST GLAD I FOUND YOU.
I'D NEVER GUESS THEY'D REALLY LOCK SOMEONE UP IN A HIDDEN ROOM NOT EVEN ON THE MAP...
This isn't exactly my forte.
N-...
EH ...?

NO!!
HUH-
OW!!
NO
NO
NO!
WAIT!
WHAT'S
WITH THE
SUDDEN-
U
W
A
A
NO!
PLEASE,
GET
OUT OF
HERE!!
I DON'T
WANT TO
GO ANY-
WHERE!!

Wai-... Celcia.
It doesn't matter! Just hurry up and go back before they find you!
Huh ...?
Wh-
Why?!
Wait Wait Wait! What's going on?!
I was told you're being held here against your will.
I came because your parents are counting on me to take you home!
Aren't you being held captive in this research facility?!

I...
I AM...
SFX: BEEP
!
.....?
WAA-
S-SOME-ONE'S HERE?!
shit
N-...NOOO, WHAT'LL WE DO?
THAT MAN IS BACK!

?
TH-THAT MAN?
H-... HURRY UP ANO HIOE SOME-WHERE!
IF SOME-ONE FROM SECU-RITY FINOS YOU, HE'LL KILL YOU!
HUH...?
NO NO NO... SECURITY GUARDS DON'T KILL PEOPLE.
No way.
DON'T TALK SO FLIP-PANTLY!
QUIC-KLY!
A A A H ...

.....
AH
HEY! YOU'RE THAT GUY FROM BEFORE!!
BEEP
WHO THE FUCK ARE YOU?
BE-EP
THERE WAS A MESSAGE FROM UPSTAIRS THAT A SUSPICIOUS RESEARCHER HAD RECENTLY ENTERED THE PREMISES.
UWAA
SO, LIKE, THEY ALREADY FOUND OUT?!

LOCK
WHAT ORGANIZATION ARE YOU FROM?
.....
NOBODY... NOTHING... HEY, DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT.
FIGHTING ISN'T MY STRONG SUIT, SO HOW 'BOUT YOU LET THIS SLIDE?

YOU'RE A TRESPASSER!
aha
YEAH, YOU GOT IT!
I'M JUST HERE BY REQUEST TO FIND SOMEONE.

AH... HEY... STOP ...
THIS PERSON ISN'T HERE TO KIDNAP ME OR ANYTHING.
I'VE TOLD HIM TO LEAVE, SO DON'T SHOOT HIM.
I WON'T GO ANYWHERE!

ALL TRESPASSERS IN THIS AREA MUST BE KILLED.
THIS IS ALSO FOR YOUR SAKE.
NO...!
KYAAA
SFX::BANG*BANG

OOF
HEY!!
SFX: WHACK
HEY, JACKASS! WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SHOOTING WITHOUT WARNING
ST-
STOP IT, PLEASE! DON'T SHOOT!!
!
RIGHT WHERE CELCIA IS?!

YOU STOP IT TOO, I SAY!
WHY ARE YOU SHOO-TING?
HOW MANY PEOPLE OO YOU HAVE TO KILL BEFORE YOU'RE SATIS-FIED?
IS IT REALLY FUN FOR YOU TO KILL A GUY AS PATHETIC AS HIM?!
OW
NOW JUST A M-
WE ONLY JUST MET AND YOU'RE ALREADY TALKING SMACK ABOUT ME?!
SFX: CLICK
SFX: FLEE
NO...!
DON'T SHOOT!!

shit...
!
SFX: CLANG

SFX: SPIN KICK
N-
STOP ...!
STOP IT ALREADY!
!!!
SFX: ZOOM

SFX: KOOOSH
SFX: POP
DAMMIT...
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE AIMING AT ME!!
SFX: CLA-CLICK

JUST STOP!!
OWWW!!
SFX: RICOCHET
GET IN THE INNER ROOM.
HURRY!
WHA ...?

CEL-CIA.
IT'S OKAY. I LOCKED IT, SO HE CAN'T OPEN IT AND GET IN HERE
THAT JERKWEED, HE WON'T LISTEN AND JUST STARTS SHOOTING.
WHAT'S WITH THIS RESEARCH LAB? THAT IS NOT HOW A SECURITY GUARD IS SUPPOSED TO DO THINGS!!
W-...
WAIT! STOP.
JUST STOP!
HUH?
IT'S OKAY
I'LL BE FINE.
I'LL MANAGE SOME-HOW, SO JUST GO BACK!
LIKE I WAS SAYING... WHY DON'T YOU WANNA GO HOME?!
I DO WANT TO GO HOME, BUT...
GEEZ, I CAN'T STAND THIS!

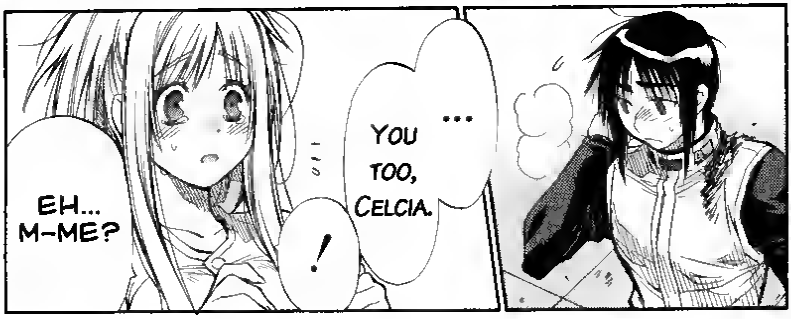
CEL-CIA...
THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU TO GET OUT OF HERE QUICKLY.
WHY WON'T ANYONE LISTEN TO ME ...?!
...EVERY-ONE IS FIGHTING OVER ME... KILLING OVER ME...
IT WAS LIKE THAT BEFORE I CAME HERE!
ALWAYS...
AL-WAYS LIKE THIS...

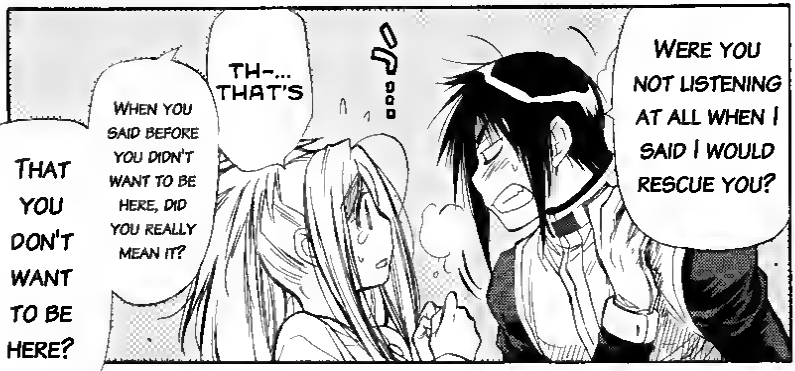
HA...
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
AAAAAH
WHAT AN AWFUL THING TO DO...
YOU WILL COME TO OUR PLACE.
FAIL-URE IS NOT AN OPTION ...
MY DAUGH-TER
IS JUST AN ORDINARY KID.
FATHER
STOP
NO STOP IT
I'LL GO
SO ...
LET GO OF MY FA-THER!!

sob
AAAH
cry
IT'S HAPPENING ALL OVER AGAIN...
IF YOU LEND US YOUR POWER, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WE CAN SAVE WILL INCREASE DRAMATICALLY...
WE ARE SAVING YOU.

I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE.
EVERYTHING IS MY FAULT! I'M THE...
.....
IT HURTS SO MUCH TO KNOW THAT IF I DIDN'T EXIST, NONE OF THIS WOULD HAPPEN...

I DON'T WANT TO SEE ANYONE ELSE DIE BECAUSE OF ME.
I'LL BE FINE.
SO... I BEG YOU.
LISTEN TO WHAT I'M TELL-ING YOU!


...
YOU TOO, CELCIA.
!
EH... M-ME?


WERE YOU NOT LISTENING AT ALL WHEN I SAID I WOULD RESCUE YOU?
TH-... THAT'S
WHEN YOU SAID BEFORE YOU DIDN'T WANT TO BE HERE, DID YOU REALLY MEAN IT?
THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO BE HERE?

GYAA
I'VE WANTED TO LOOK AT IT SOOOO BADLY.
SHALL I ♡ TAKE A ♡ PEEK? ♡
NO! STOP STOP STOP!!
DON'T YOU DARE LOOK!
AAH
EH? WH-WHAT?
I BROUGHT SOMETHING NICE WITH ME...
THEN IT'S ALL THE MORE REASON WHY I WON'T GIVE UP UNTIL YOU LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY.
IT HAS ALL KINDS OF THINGS WRITTEN DOWN, FROM YOUR HEIGHT AND WEIGHT TO ♡ YOUR CHEST SIZE.
ACTUALLY, IT'S A RATHER INTIMATE DESCRIPTION OF YOU FROM YOUR PARENTS.
SO, FEELING BETTER?
IF YOU COME BACK WITH ME, I'LL HAND IT OVER.
You don't play fair...
...
HEY,
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.

But if you want to leave, then you're leaving.
That's the reason I came here. Wouldn't it hurt a lot to just say "it's hopeless" and just give up?
Let's do our best.
I will protect you to the very end.
And you...
Hm?
And you won't kill anyone?
.....
If I won't, will you go along with what I've said?

I PROMISE.
I WILL! JUST LIKE YOU SAID!
AND LIKE I SAID, SECURITY GUARDS DON'T DO THAT KIND OF THING.
AND YOU'LL PROMISE ME, RIGHT?!
YOU'RE AN INTERESTING PERSON
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT I'M ACTUALLY A RATHER GENTLE GUY.
MY USUAL METHOD IN THIS SITUATION IS TO PUT 'EM OUT WITH A SINGLE HIT TO THE STOMACH.
REALLY! SO STOP CRYING!!
REALLY?! HEY!
IF YOU WERE A GUY, I WOULD'VE DONE IT WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT.
UM... WELL...
I FEEL SO HONORED...
I LOOK LIKE I'M THE BAD GUY.

All this aside though, I'm impressed.
Celcia, what kind of research are you doing?
Eh...?
Ah... well I'm... er...
Hey, I found a duct
That guy earlier is almost certainly still in the next room, so...
That being said, just how do we get out of here...?
Celcia
But she didn't call for them...
They almost never assign security to watch over researchers.
Must be a big research project...
Oh, it's okay if you don't wanna talk about it.
Yeah...
I'm sorry. I'm not any kind of expert.
I hardly know how to explain this research.
Hmph...

W- WAIT A MINUTE.
WHAT WAS THAT?
HUH?
ガシッ
ER... UM... WH- WHAT?!
WHAT DID YOU MEAN ABOUT NOT BEING AN EXPERT?
H-... HOW CAN I PUT IT...?
WHATEVER THE CASE MAY BE... IF YOU'RE NOT A RESEARCHER, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
AND THERE ARE GUYS AROUND YOU WHO WILL EVEN KILL?!
WHA ...?!
Y... YOU CAME HERE TO RESCUE ME WITHOUT KNOWING ANYTHING AT ALL?!
W-...
WELL EXCUSE ME...
TH- THERE'S NO NEED TO APO- LOGIZE, BUT...

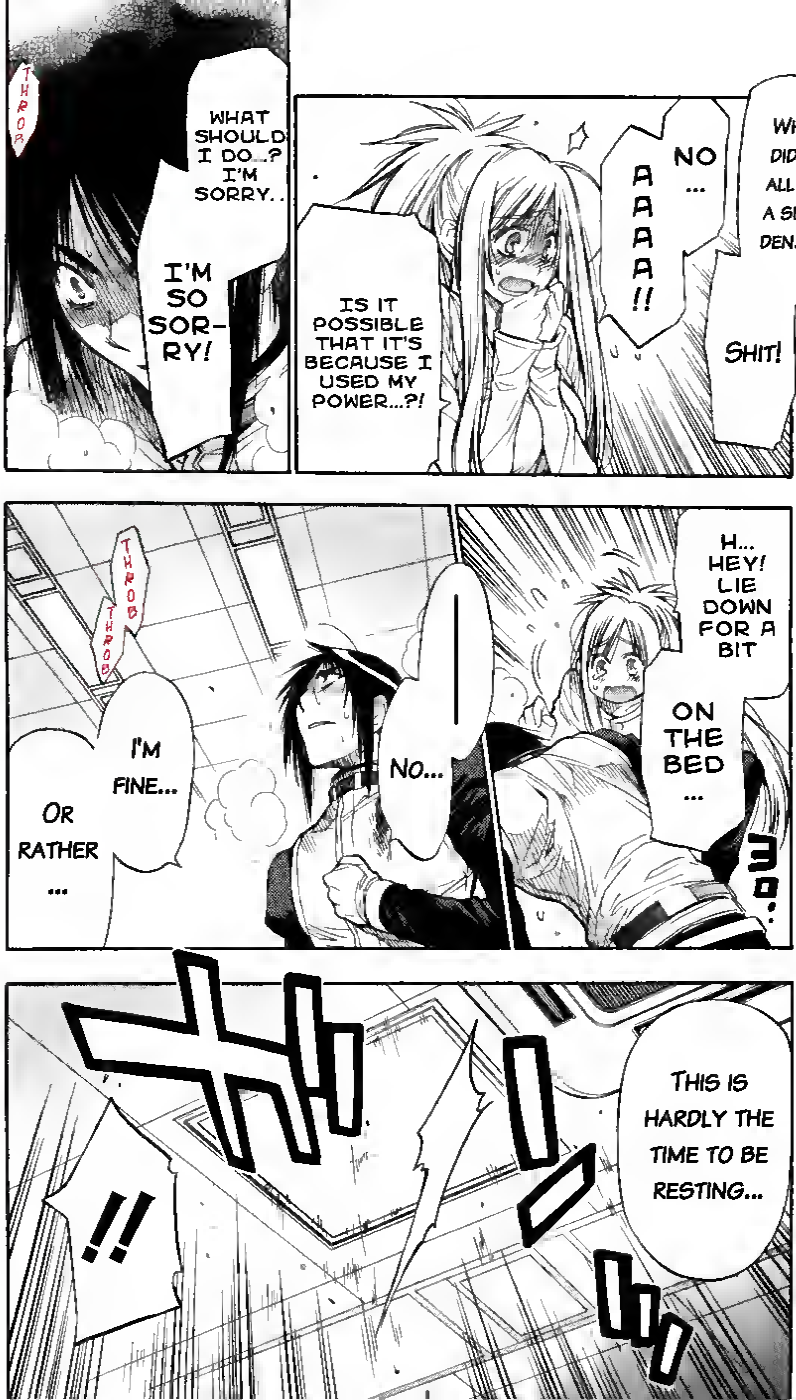
I SEE.
.....
THEN, I'LL SHOW IT TO YOU.
HUH? WHAT...
WAI-...
SIT THERE
どすっ
SHOW ME YOUR INJURED SHOULDER
ARE YOU CURRENTLY SICK OR ANYTHING?
YOU SEEM HEALTHY...
EH?
OH, I'M FINE AT THE MOMENT... WHY?
DON'T MOVE.
WHAT THE...?
!
SFX: SHINE

EHE...
SFX: SURPRISE
WHA ...?!
WHOA ... THE WOUND HEALED ?!
SFX: WHIRL
WHAT WAS THAT?!
UHM... CELCIA, DID YOU HEAL IT?!
YEAH ... WELL, I DION'T DO IT. THE HEA-LING WAS ALL YOU
?
HOW TO SAY IT... ...THE BODY NATURALLY HEALS ITSELF, BUT..

I CAN GIVE IT A BOO-ST.
I MAKE THE GROWTH OF LIVING THINGS WORK HAROER... LIKE MAKING THEM "FAST-FORWARD" IN TIME
FAST-FOR-WARD ...?
um...
YEAH... I CAN'T REALLY THINK OF A GOOO EXAM-PLE...
IF YOU WERE GOING TO MAKE A CLONE OF A 20 YEAR-OLD PERSON, IT WOULD TAKE 20 YEARS.
EH?
HM?
MM... YEAH... THAT SOUNDS RIGHT...
Huh? I see a flaw here.
IF I PUT THOUGHT INTO IT, I CAN DO IT IN 3 DAYS
...THAT IS THE POWER I HAVE.
TAKE A NEW MEDICINE, FOR EXAMPLE. "HOW MUCH MEDICINE TO PRESC-RIBE?"...
...SO ALL LABORATORY RESEARCHERS WANT TO GET THEIR HANDS ON THIS ABILITY. EVERYONE.

...I'M SURE THIS POWER MIGHT BE OF HELP TO PEOPLE, BUT...
...BUT BECAUSE OF THAT, PEOPLE FIGHT, AND SO MANY PEOPLE DIE... IT'S JUST WRONG!
...CEL-...
STING
!?
THROB
ARGH...
.....

OOF...
ドサ
!
WHAT THE...?!
GOD ...
HOLD IT... WHAT DID YOU ...?!
THIS HURTS ...
HOW...
WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU OKAY?!
HEY ...!
REALLY PAINFUL...
THRUM
THRUM
THRUM
WHAT THE HELL ...?!


THROB
WHAT SHOULD I DO...? I'M SORRY..
I'M SO SOR-RY!
WHY DID IT ALL OF A SUD-DEN...!?
NO... AAAA!!
SHIT!
IS IT POSSIBLE THAT IT'S BECAUSE I USED MY POWER...?!
THROB THROB
I'M FINE... OR RATHER...
NO...
H... HEY! LIE DOWN FOR A BIT
ON THE BED...
!!
THIS IS HARDLY THE TIME TO BE RESTING...

SFX: BANG CLANG
N-... NO WAY ...
HE'S UP THERE ...?
!
SFX: BOOM
SFX: DASH
N-... NOW YOU JUST HOLD IT!
I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU--

KYA...
AAH...
ASS-HOLE...
LISTEN TO WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY!
!!

OOF ...
!
SFX: STAGGER
SFX: BLAM
THAT'S ENOUGH OUTTA YOU!
JUST WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, BASTARD!?

You do know that Celcia wants to go home, don't you?
Stay out of our way. Can't you see she's just crying here all alone?
Argh ...
!!
That... hurt.
cough cough
rise
...you speak from selfishness.
You're the selfish ones!!
You don't think it's sad for her to be locked away in such a place?

NO... PLEASE, STOP IT ALREADY
C'MON...
YOU HAVEN'T THOUGHT IT THROUGH AT ALL...
...ABOUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF SHE LEFT THIS PLACE.
DON'T TALK LIKE YOU KNOW EVERYTHING.
WHAT?
...DO YOU MEAN THAT YOU
YOURSELF PERSONALLY DON'T WANT HER TO LEAVE HERE?
あぁ…っ。
THEN LET'S TALK IT OVER.
DAMN...
YOU'RE AN IDIOT ...!!
--NO,
STOP...
SFX: WHIP

SFX: SPIN
ACK
KYAAA
DAMN ...!

OOF...
URK
SFX: SWING
SFX: WHIP

SFX: SWING
!!
SFX: THROB
AAAH...
!
SFX: WHACK
OOF!!
SFX: THUD

!!
STOP IT! LET HIM GO!!
...IF YOU TAKE CELCIA FROM HERE,
WILL YOU RETURN HER TO HER FAMILY?
AFTER THAT, WHAT WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO DO?
PANT
PANT
AN-SWER ME!
JUST SHUT UP...
J-...
DON'T YOU THINK THE NEXT TIME MAY DRAG IN INNOCENT BYSTAND-ERS?
IF YOU SEND HER BACK TO A PLACE WITHOUT SECURI-TY...
I'M JUST DOING THE JOB I WAS ASKED TO DO.

SUPPOSE THE PARENTS WHO SENT ME DID GET CAUGHT UP IN IT.
IF THE GIRL HONESTLY WANTS TO LEAVE, MY JOB IS TO PROTECT THAT "DESIRE"!
WHAT HAPPENS LATER HAPPENS LATER!
SUCH WANTON IRRESPONSIBILITY!
THAT'S THE REAL THREAT!
RIGHT NOW, ALL YOU HAVE ARE LAME EXCUSES!!
JUST LIKE THAT... ALL THIS TIME...
YOU'RE MAKING HER DO WHAT SHE DOESN'T WANT TO DO
WHILE SHE'S TOO SCARED TO FIGHT BACK!
SHUT UP!!
ARE YOU GOING TO PROTECT HER FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE?!
THE FIGHTING ISH'T SOMETHING ANYONE CAN STOP!

IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES, I WILL!!
DOING NOTHING AT ALL WON'T CHANGE ANYTHING!!
!
LET'S HAVE THE PERSON IN QUESTION DECIDE
...A KID DECIDING SUCH AN IMPOR-TANT...!
GIVEN ALL THAT WE'VE SAID!!
...IF YOU CAN'T TAKE HER SERI-OUSLY,
MAYBE "BIG BROTHER" HERE NEEDS TO GROW UP TOO.

HEY! JUST STOP IT!!
I'M BEGGING YOU, PLEASE STOP!
I HATE THE FIGHT-ING!!
SHUT UP! STOP CRYING!
"STOP IT! STOP IT!" IS ALL YOU SAY, AND WHAT GOOD DOES IT DO?
YOU'VE DONE NOTHING BUT CRY UP TILL NOW, AND HAS ANYTHING CHANGED?
HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE GONE AND DIED FOR YOUR SAKE?! WELL?!
MISS "HOLY GIRL"!!

HERE!!
!!!

SAY IT!
YOU'RE NOT A PUPPET!
CEL-CIA!
N...
ハッ

STOP IT!!
...YOU WON'T HIT ME.
OH, CUT THAT OUT ALREADY!!
WHY...
WHY WON'T ANYONE LISTEN TO ME?
MNN...
IT'S LIKE A CONSTANT FREE-FOR-ALL FIGHT.
I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANYMORE!

はい
IF YOU DON'T STOP FIGHTING...
I'LL KILL MYSELF!!
!
THAT WAY
NOTHING LIKE THIS WILL HAPPEN AGAIN!
CELCIA!

GEEZ ...
JUST STOP KILLING EACH OTHER ALREADY!!
UNH!
!

SFX: KONG
SFX: THUD
UGH ...
SFX: FLOP

Fingerprint authentication
....!!
I CAN'T PULL THE TRIG-GER...
WEEELL...
WH... WHY ...?!
SORRY; THAT GUN WAS SET UP SO THAT ONLY I COULD USE IT.
...IT'S DAN-GEROUS, AFTER ALL.
...TH-... THIS WAS ALL PART OF YOUR PLAN...?!
I THOUGHT IF I HAD YOU USE THAT I'D GET AN OPENING.
...I'M SORRY FOR USING YOU LIKE THAT...
...I HIT THAT GUY
REEE-ALLY HARD...
Sorry but it's less trouble this way.
...BUT I DION'T KILL HIM, SO LET IT SLIDE...

...But things like this...
I can't avoid them comple-tely,
otherwise I won't be able to protect what's important.
...Sorry.
.....

……
ペた…
…YOU'RE GONNA HEAL HIM?
I'M SORRY…
YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE,
BUT I DON'T THINK HE'LL DIE IF YOU LEAVE HIM BE.
STILL, I DON'T THINK HE'S REALLY A BAD MAN… I CAN'T JUST LEAVE HIM LIKE THIS.
…UH OH, SOMEONE'S COMING.
ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME WE GOT OUT OF HERE, CELCIA-CHAN?
FIGHTING…

I'M REALLY AWFUL AT IT...
...THIS IS AS MUCH AS I CAN DO.
I'M REALLY SORRY...
.....
...IT'S FINE.
WE'LL BE TOGETHER.
SFX: HUM

Inside the city of Rome
The city-state of the Vatican
WOW!
WON-DER-FUL!!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER BEEN HERE!

I'M SORRY FOR MAKING YOU TAKE A DETOUR...
NO, IT'S FINE. IT'S ON THE WAY, AND YOU HAVEN'T BEEN OUTSIDE FOR AWHILE, HAVE YOU, CELCIA?
NOPE! I'VE HARDLY SEEN THE OUTSIDE SINCE I WAS 10 YEARS OLD! I'M QUITE HAPPY!
EH? THAT LONG?!
AH, YES. I WAS ONLY AT THE INSTITUTE FOR A LITTLE WHILE
I HAVE... BEEN TAKEN FROM ONE PLACE TO ANO-THER...
.....
I SEE ...
...I'M JUST DOING THE JOB I WAS ASKED,
BUT LIKE THAT SECURITY GUY SAID, IS IT REALLY OKAY TO JUST TAKE HER BACK?
...I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO DO IT...
AH,
THAT'S RIGHT. HEY, NAOYA!
SFX: CLAP

Now what was it...?
I HEARD FROM MY FATHER BEFORE
ABOUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF I WENT IN THERE
IN THE VATICAN? SURE.
LIKE A NUN?
HE TALKED ABOUT SEPARATING YOURSELF FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD, HUH?
HM?
WHAT?
IT'S A DETOUR, I KNOW...
SO, LIKE, ENTERING THE UNIVERSITY?
?
UNIVERSITY?
.....
THAT'S SOMETHING YOU CAN LEARN ANYWHERE...
HAHA...
I JUST WANT...
I JUST WISH THE FIGHTING WOULD END...
THEY HAVE ONE: VATICAN UNIVERSITY,
THE "LIFE SCIENCES ACADEMY".

.....
I'M SORRY... I KNOW I STAGED THE WHOLE THING, BUT...
DON'T EVER THINK ABOUT DYING FOR REAL.
.....
... OKAY, BUT NONE OF IT WOULD REALLY HAPPEN IF I WASN'T HERE
NO, THAT'S ...
NO, WHAT YOU SAID IS RIGHT. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I'M REALLY GRATE-FUL, NAOYA.
THERE'S NEVER BEEN ANYONE WHO REALLY LISTENED TO ME LIKE THIS BEFORE.

I'M HAPPY SOMEONE LIKE YOU CAME TO RESCUE ME.
I NEED TO BECOME STRONGER TOO, HUH?
-I KNOW OF
ONE PLACE WITH MUCH
.....
BETTER SECURITY, BUT-
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN THEN?
.....
BUT CAN I JUST TAKE HER BACK AND SET HER FREE?!
.....
CE-
CELCIA.

EIGHTH RESEARCH
4TH LAB.
Naoya-kun,
Sorry it's so soon after your return, but come down to the sub-level.
AYE, UNDER-STOOD.
AFTER YOU'VE RETURNED HOME FOR A BIT
THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT...

SFX: TROMP
At 8 o'clock, take over for Luis, if you would.
EIGHTH RESEARCH
MEH, FINE.
EIGHTH RESEARCH
SECURITY GUARD
It's "yes", isn't it, Naoya-kun?
SFX: TROMP

ROGER THAT.
...HEY, BEFORE MY SHIFT,
CAN I HAVE A QUICK CHAT WITH THE CHIEF, MARI-SAN?
Hm? Ah,
of cou-rse you can.
Actually, it might be better said that the chief
wants to talk to you.
HUH?
WHY?
YOU'RE LATE.
HEY, NAOYA.
WELCOME BACK.
...SO, HOW WAS ROME?

HOW~ DID~ IT~ GO?
HO HO
... WELL?
HM.
I WANT TO DISCUSS THE JOB YOU SENT ME TO DO!!
WERE THE CARIBBEAN AND OTHER SIGHTS MARVELOUS?
Girls in bathing suits.
... YEAH, IT WAS AFTER ALL OF YOUR SUGGES-TIONS.
I'M SURE YOU DID QUITE WELL.
IT IS YOUR HANDI-WORK, AFTER ALL.
AHH, MUST BE NICE... SIGHT-SEEING OVER-SEAS...
YOU DIDN'T SHOW UP FOR YOUR SHIFT. YOU WERE TAKING A PAID VACATION, RIGHT?
?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
JOB?

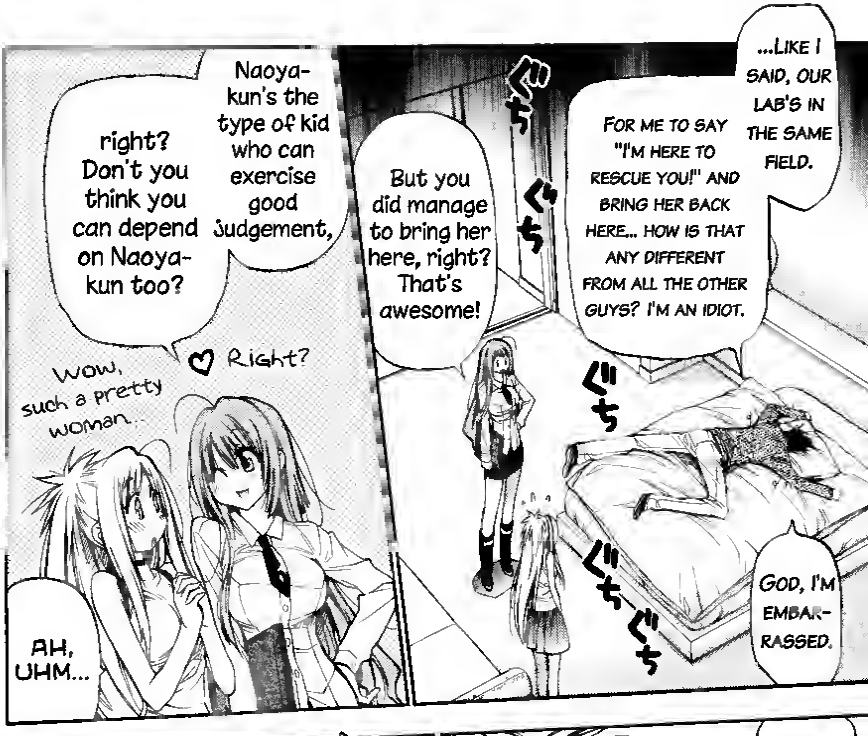
WHAT?
NO, IT WAS A REGULAR VACATION.
It was that kind of shift
IZZAT SO?
WAI-
...
WAIT A MIN-UTE!
THERE'S SOMETHING WEIRD GOING ON HERE! WHAT IS IT?! AND NOW I'M NOT GETTING PAID?!
WHAT NOW ...?
Mean! Stingy! Awful! Unfair!
PAIN IN THE ASS
YOU'RE JUST TOSSING OUT THE 3 DAYS I WORKED?!
NO... NOT JUST THAT.
WHY IS "8TH" ALWAYS SCREWING WITH ME?!
SHADDAP AND TURN OFF YOUR RADIO, STUPID.
YOU'RE TALKING MARI TO DEATH.
DIRECT HIT WITH THE LOUD VOICE?

SO, WHAT ARE YOU SAY-ING?
JUST SPIT IT OUT.
IT'S CEL-CIA!
That's rather... Well, I guess that would be... But
.....
...WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING? JUST HOW FAR ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE THIS?
WHY WAS I FIGHTING OVER HER IN A COMPETITOR'S BASE ONLY TO BRING HER HERE FOR US TO DO WHO-KNOWS-WHAT TO HER? JUST WHAT THE HELL IS...
HUH?
IT CAN'T BE... YOU BROUGHT SOMEONE BACK? A GIRLFRIEND?
GAH... WHAT?!!
え
TH-THAT'S ---
AFTER GETTING HER OUT, WE'RE JUST GONNA LEAVE HER BE?
...HEY, HEY, THINK FIRST, THEN SPEAK.
え!?

NO-BODY SAID ANY-THING OF THE SORT.
DURING YOUR VACATION, IN A SITUATION YOU GOT YOURSELF INTO, YOU PICKED UP ONE "HOT POTATO" OF A PRINCESS, GOT IT?
SINCE THIS IS THE FIRST I'M HEARING ABOUT IT HERE AT "8TH", PLEASE TAKE RESPONSIBILITY AND HANDLE IT AS YOU SEE FIT.
YOUR "CARING UNCLE" HERE JUST DOESN'T HAVE THE FREE TIME TO GO MEDDLING IN THE PRIVATE LIVES OF EMPLOYEES.

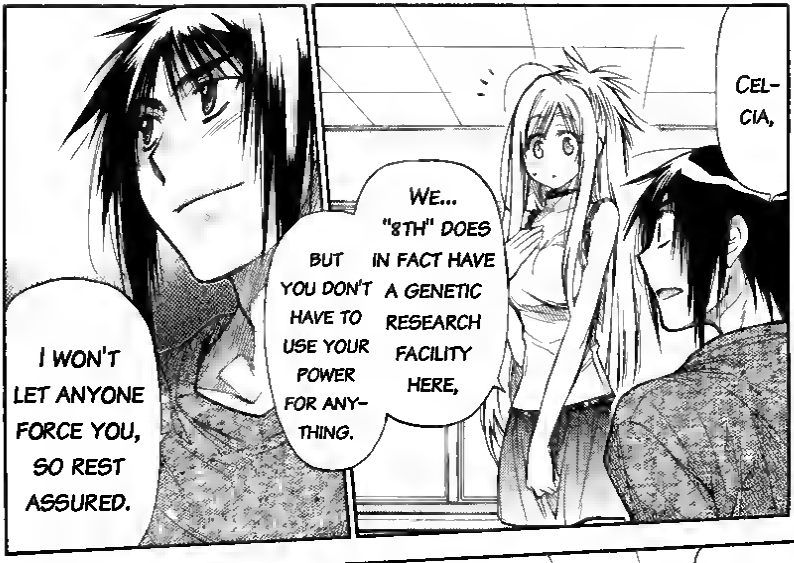
AND THAT IS THAT,
SO GOOD WORK!
DIS-MISSED.
HEY, WAI-
JUST A...
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE! DAMN YOU--!!
AWW... SEEMS MY "NEPHEW" HAS REACHED THE AGE WHERE HE'S BRINGING HOME GIRLS...
I'M GETTING TOO OLD...
IS IT REALLY OKAY, CHIEF? TO REALLY LET HIM TAKE HER?
YES, YES, IT'S FINE.

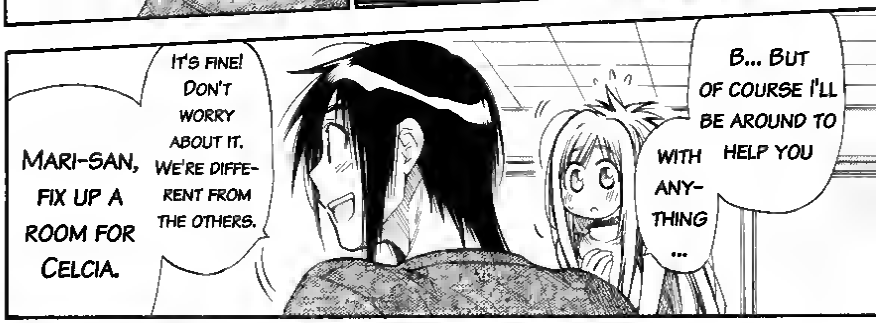
BUT TALKING LIKE THAT IS...
LET HIM THINK THINGS OVER.
IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR "THAT THING" TO START EXPERIENCING WHAT THE WORLD HAS TO OFFER.
Simply put,
the Chief denies having sent Naoya-kun to save you, Celcia.

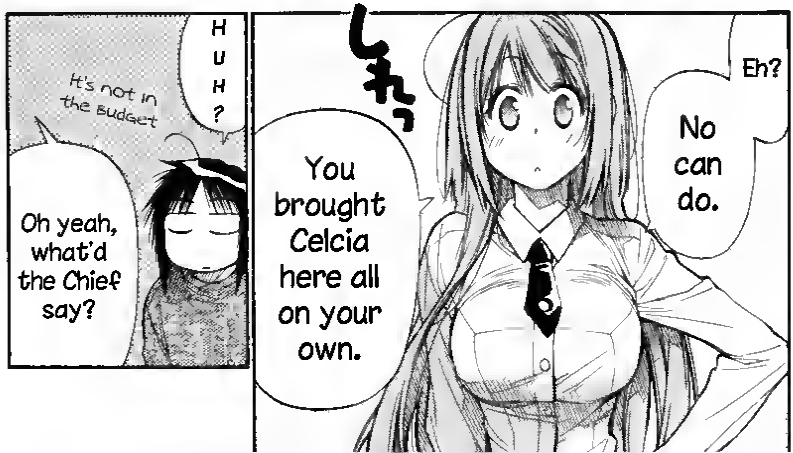

...Like I said, our lab's in the same field.
For me to say "I'm here to rescue you!" and bring her back here... How is that any different from all the other guys? I'm an idiot.
ぐちぐち
But you did manage to bring her here, right? That's awesome!
ぐちぐち
God, I'm embarrassed.
Naoya-kun's the type of kid who can exercise good judgement, right? Don't you think you can depend on Naoya-kun too?
Right?
Wow, such a pretty woman...
Ah, uhm...

Y-yes!
I think Naoya is a great person.
ジッ
.....
I feel like the Chief's having me do the hard part, but I don't mind...

BUT I WAS SURP-RISED TO LEARN THAT NAOYA'S ALSO A SECURITY GUARD AT A RESEARCH FACILITY
I'm sorry. We weren't trying to deceive you, but...
we couldn't make it public that "8th" was intervening,
nor that we're in the same field.
...But when you think about it, we can't really make a move.
We can't do anything to help you.
But the Chief decided that somebody had to do something.
He couldn't hear your tale and just leave you alone.
Naoya-kun, if you'd heard about it earlier you wouldn't let it be either. You'd be ready to fight!
So I'm sorry we had to deceive you.
YEAH, YEAH, YEAH.
I DON'T THINK IT COULD'VE BEEN HELPED.
SFX: ROLL UP


CEL-CIA,
WE... "8TH" DOES IN FACT HAVE A GENETIC RESEARCH FACILITY HERE,
BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO USE YOUR POWER FOR ANY-THING.
I WON'T LET ANYONE FORCE YOU, SO REST ASSURED.


B... BUT OF COURSE I'LL BE AROUND TO HELP YOU WITH ANY-THING ...
IT'S FINE! DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. WE'RE DIFFE-RENT FROM THE OTHERS.
MARI-SAN, FIX UP A ROOM FOR CELCIA.


Eh?
No can do.
しれっ
You brought Celcia here all on your own.
HUH?
It's not in the budget
Oh yeah, what'd the Chief say?

WAIT! I REALLY WANNA GO TO SLEEP!
AND MY HEALTH TOOK A NOSEDIVE DURING THE LAST JOB!
So sleep.
This is a pretty large room...
Yeah, it'll do
WHA?
EEEEHH?!
TH-TH-TH-THEN WHAT DO WE DO?!
...SORRY, BUT CAN I SAY SOMETHING?
YOU DID SAY YOU'D SLEEP WITH ME, RIGHT?
HOW ABOUT IT? WERE YOU SERIOUS ABOUT THAT?
Sleep with you?
Celcia's so cute!
Don't you realize?! A BOY just waking up is grounds for sexual harassment!
(Well just one part waking up)
WITH A GIRL IN THE ROOM?

D... Did I say something like that ...?!
!?
AWFUL WOMAN!!
ムギュー
ブル ブル
Isn't it great to be roommates? Since you wanted to be Celcia's bodyguard too.
I CAN'T SLEEP LIKE THIS!!
NO! DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT!
LET'S GO SLEEP TOGETHER!
I'm right in the middle of my shift, you know.

Erm...
UHM ...
?
HEY, CELCIA!
DON'T YOU THINK PEOPLE SHOULD KEEP THEIR PROMISES?!
Say it!

NA...
NAOYA SAID HE'D PROTECT ME FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.
YEAH, I SAID-
EEEEEH?!!
I SAID THAT?!
My my.
What's this?
ガサゴソ
WHAT'S THAT LOOK FOR?!
See? Naoya-kun, even you don't remember things you say.
And isn't it awful, forgetting that?
WHAT? NO! HANG ON...!
UM, I-I'M SORRY ARE YOU SAYING YOU'D HATE TO BE IN THE SAME ROOM AS ME?
I DIDN'T SAY THAT!!

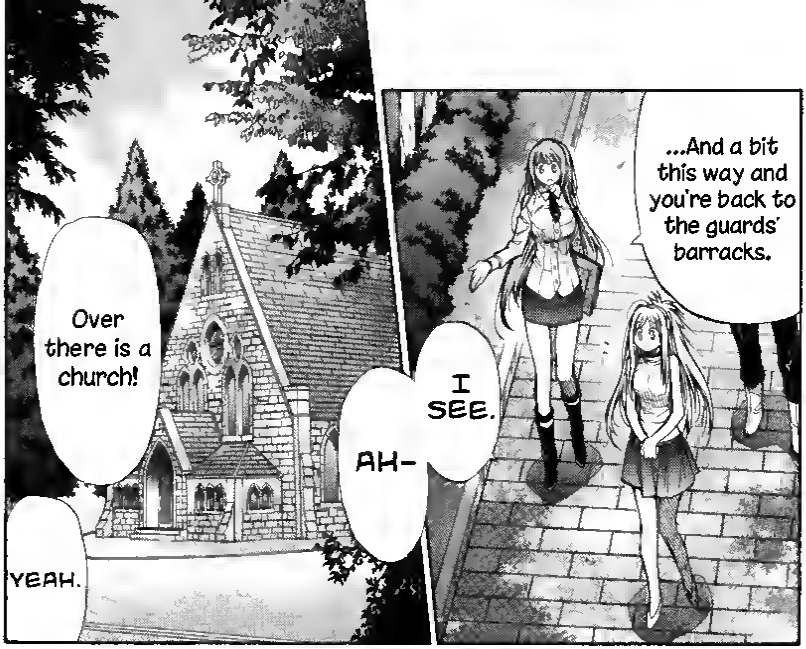
THEN WHAT SHOULD I DO?
if something did happen while you were alone, it wouldn't be good...
Well, with Eighth's internal security I think you'll be fine, but...
Mhm...
While he's sleeping...
OH, THEN I'LL LEAVE NAO-YA'S ROOM.
.....
ARE YOU GIRLS SERIOUS?

Here's a pillow.
There are four tits...
ZZZZ
.....

WHEN YOU LOOK AT BREASTS, THERE ARE THESE SELFISH, ANGRY PEOPLE, RIGHT?
WELL, YOU SEE...
Chief, why do you wear sun-glasses?
Hides the line of sight
THEY MAKE THE USUALLY CALM AND COLLECTED NAOYA CRY.
THEY GIVE ME DIRTY LOOKS.
Waaaa! Scary!
SO, HOW ARE THEY REALLY?
I see
YEAH, IN THE PARTY CORNER.
Tokyuu Hands!
SHATTER

Note. Tokyuu Hands is an "interesting" retail chain with rather strange merchandise http //www.tokyu-hands.co.jp/

-Eighth Research is owned by the Graphico Company.
The four labs are collectively known as "Eighth".
4th Lab here is the one where we do genetics-related research inside.
Naoya-kun works security here.
So actually... the 4th Lab Chief is the Chief over all of Eighth.
EIGHTH RESEARCH
4TH LAB
ONE WAY.. OR ANO-THER?
SIGH-
One way or ano-ther.
That's right.
Either way, i'm sure you'll meet him eventually.
AH.. CHIEF-SAN..
HE WAS THE ONE KIND ENOUGH TO HAVE SOMEONE SAVE ME, RIGHT?


...And a bit this way and you're back to the guards' barracks.
I SEE.
AH-
Over there is a church!
YEAH.

It's a chapel where employees can pray.
There's a doctor too, even though we have a separate medical facility elsewhere.
Oh, it's an Italian girl
You could say rather that it's more for mental health.
It feels like it is useful for people that need it.

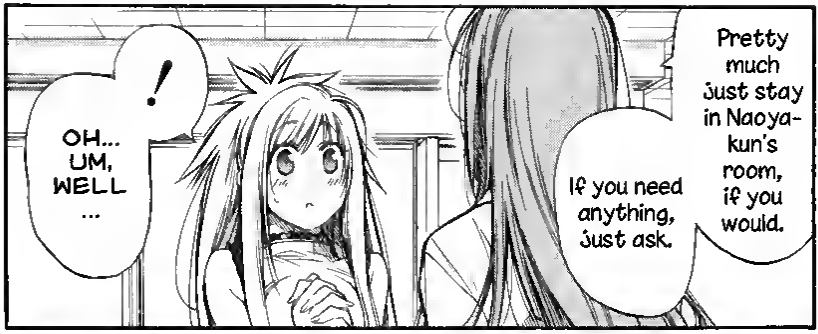
TO DO SO MUCH FOR THEM
IT'S WONDER-FUL!
Just a kind of extra employee benefit though, heh.

Operation.2 serviceability!（保守）

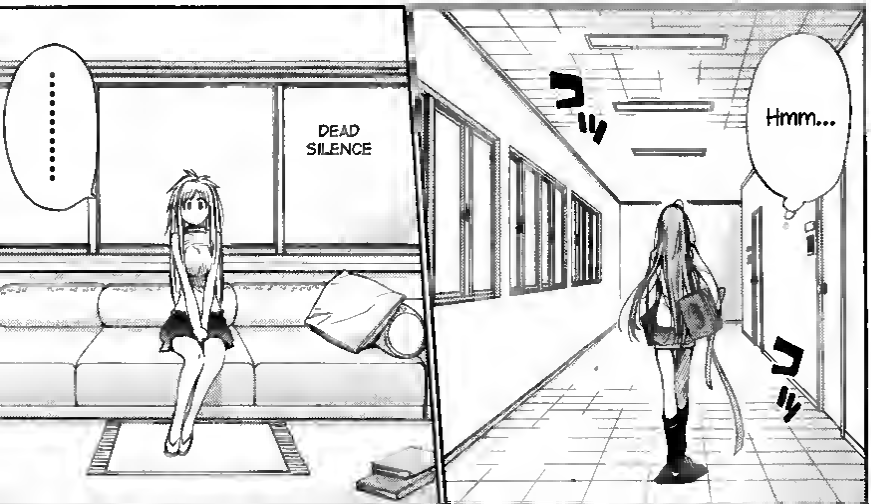
WAAAAH
I OVER-SLEPT!!
In the dream I was trapped
Earth with two giant tits
ヤバい
Ah, Naoya-kun! You're finally awake.
Did you sleep well this morning?
MARI-SAN!
AND CELCIA! WHERE'D YOU GO OFF TO?
HUH?
WHY AM I SLEEPING OUTSIDE?
KEEP OUT
CAUTION KEEP OUT
Do not enter

A tour of the facility... But more importantly,
are you okay? It's almost noon.
URK
WHAT?!
AH HELL, I'M LATE!
Oh,
that's right. The security director called for you, Naoya-kun.
KEEPOUT
SECURITY DIRECTOR?
Yeah, it's like the #1 top dog of security guards.
Also Naoya-kun's boss.
...ARE YOU SERIOUS...?
Quite serious. Please go, as soon as possible.

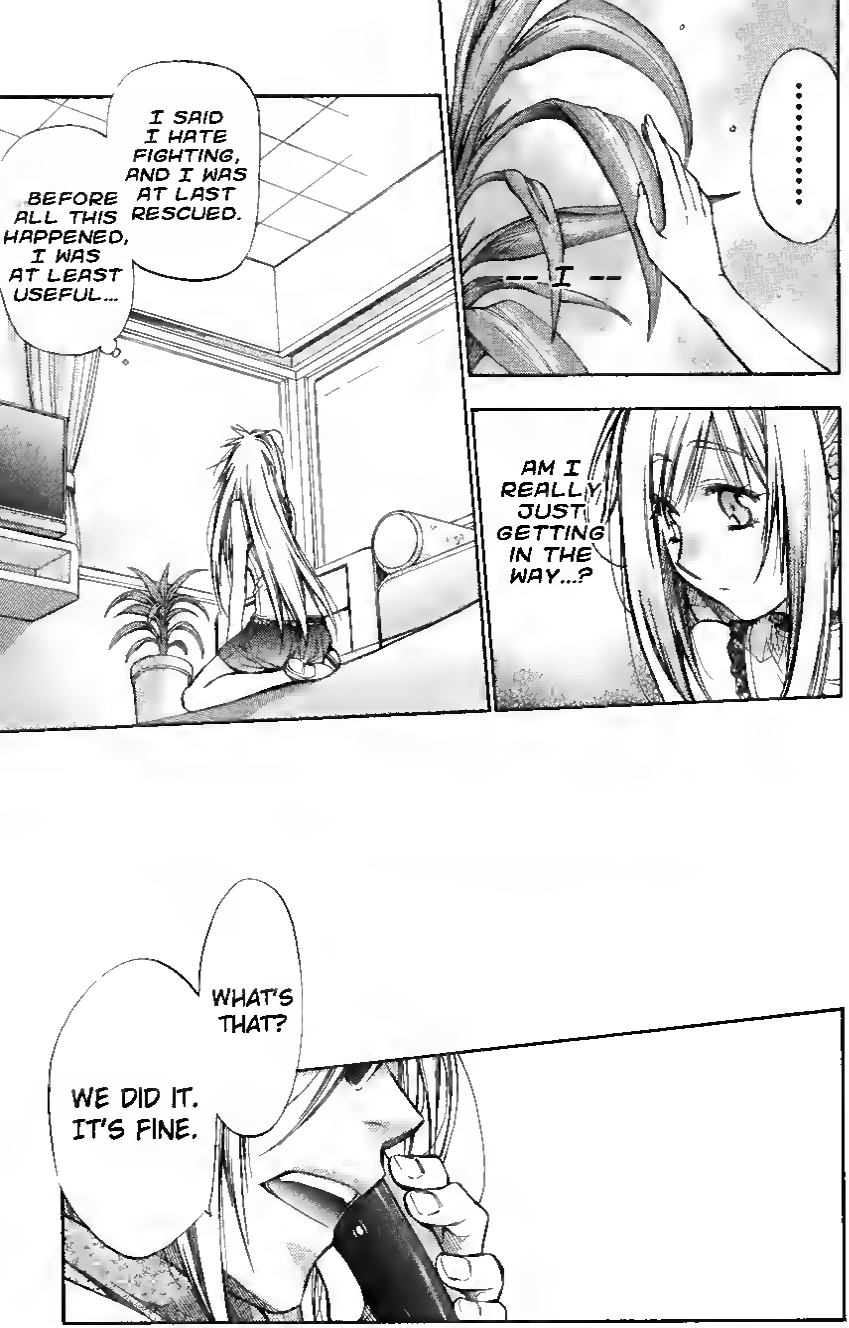
I'M OFF!
Yup! See you later!
♡
UM... HEY,
SHOULDN'T WE HAVE WOKEN HIM UP EARLIER...?
It's fine. He looked so tired after all.
It's okay.
Hm, however ...
It was just a one-time thing, Celcia.
OH, RIGHT
I'M SO VERY THANK-FUL TO HAVE RECEI-VED A TOUR!
Well, it's about time for me to go too.


Pretty much just stay in Naoya-kun's room, if you would.
If you need anything, just ask.
OH... UM, WELL ...
!

... NO, UNDERSTOOD
IF I MOVE AROUND IT'LL JUST BE MORE TROUBLE FOR EVERYONE ELSE

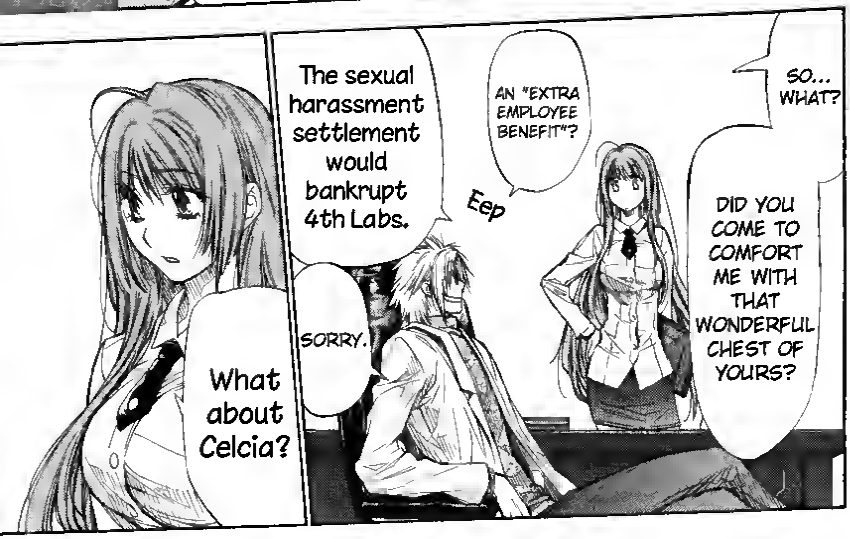

Hmm...
コツ
コツ
DEAD SILENCE
.....

KYAAAA
OH, RIGHT.
I'LL CLEAN UP...
ポン
MEN ARE ALWAYS OGLING WOMEN LIKE THAT, HUH?
NAOYA RIGHT,
Now that
was
shock-ing
WHEW
P-PR-P-
PRI-VACY IS...
THEY'RE NAOYA'S
NO NO NO! I MUST NOT MOVE THEM
DANGLE...
MM THERE ...!
WA-TERING THE PLANT ...
IS ALL I CAN DO...

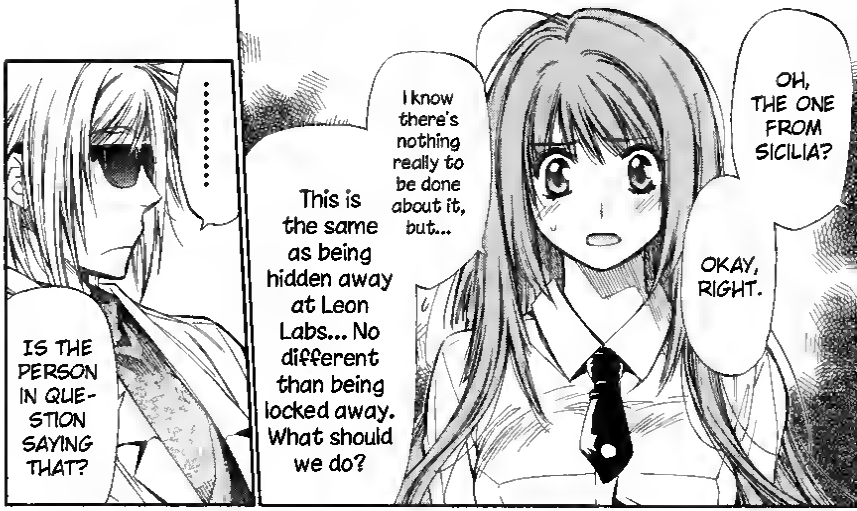

I SAID I HATE FIGHTING, AND I WAS AT LAST RESCUED.
BEFORE ALL THIS HAPPENED, I WAS AT LEAST USEFUL...
AM I REALLY JUST GETTING IN THE WAY...?
WHAT'S THAT?
WE DID IT. IT'S FINE.

THIS TERM, THERE WON'T BE A PROBLEM IF THE 3RD LEAVES NO STONE UNTURNED, RIGHT?
HUH?
THAT'S WHAT THE 4TH IS FOR, YES.
WE'RE STILL IN THE MIDDLE OF ANALYZING THAT.
OH, YEAH RIGHT! LIKE WE COULD REALLY DO THAT, YOU MORON!
WHAT?? CUT DOWN THE TIME IT TAKES?!
LIKE I SAID, ANYTHING WE DO TAKES TIME! WHAT'LL WE DO IF WE PISS OFF OUR CELLULAR RESEARCH PARTNERS?
I can see you're quite busy.
WHAT DO YOU NEED, MARI?
AH, SORRY 'BOUT THAT.
Thank you, please call again
ピキョン

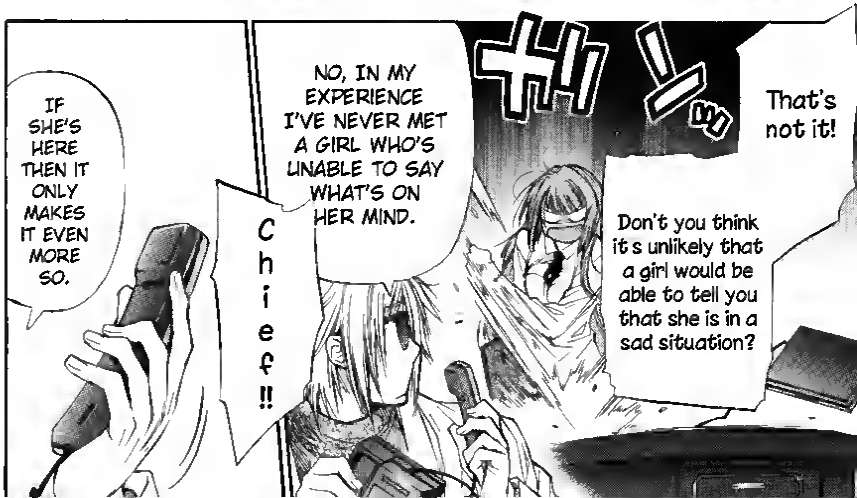
The parent company?
TAKING TOO MUCH TIME AND MONEY HAS IRRITATED THEM.
IT'S "3RD" SAYING THERE AREN'T ENOUGH PEOPLE. MAKES FOR GREAT CONVERSATION.
AHH-- I WANNA GO WHERE THE ACTION IS.
I hate doing this.
Well, that's your job
By all means be mad


The sexual harassment settlement would bankrupt 4th Labs.
What about Celcia?
SORRY.
Eep
AN "EXTRA EMPLOYEE BENEFIT"?
SO... WHAT?
DID YOU COME TO COMFORT ME WITH THAT WONDERFUL CHEST OF YOURS?

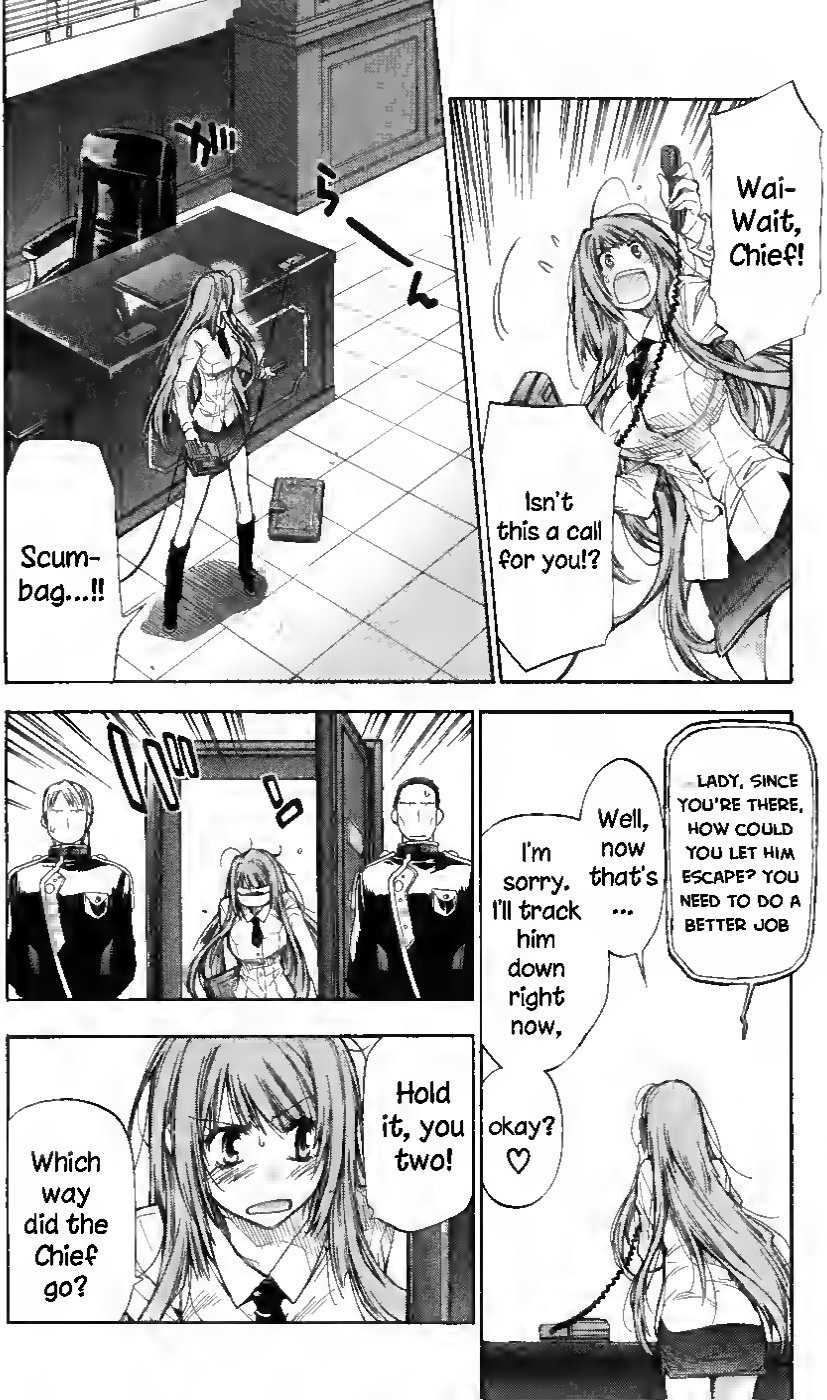
The girl Naoya-kun brought back.
She's staying at the dormitory.
CELCIA?
JUST WHO IS THAT?


OH, THE ONE FROM SICILIA?
OKAY, RIGHT.
I know there's nothing really to be done about it, but...
This is the same as being hidden away at Leon Labs... No different than being locked away. What should we do?
.....
IS THE PERSON IN QUESTION SAYING THAT?

No, she's not saying it, but-...
THEN THAT MEANS SHE'S ACCEPTING IT.
CLICK
プルルル
YES, YES, LOOK AFTER HER, WILL YOU?


That's not it!
ガリ
Don't you think it's unlikely that a girl would be able to tell you that she is in a sad situation?
NO, IN MY EXPERIENCE I'VE NEVER MET A GIRL WHO'S UNABLE TO SAY WHAT'S ON HER MIND.
Chief!!
IF SHE'S HERE THEN IT ONLY MAKES IT EVEN MORE SO.

HERE, MARI. TELE-PHONE.
Mari isn't "there"!
プニ
Geh ...
THEY WANT YOU.
Hello?!
THIS IS THE GRAPHICO COMPANY LICENSE DEPART-MENT.
Eh?
HQ's Lic...
IT'S MARI, RIGHT? COULD YOU PUT DR. SHINYA ON PLEASE?


Wai-Wait, Chief!
Isn't this a call for you!?
Scum-bag...!!
LADY, SINCE YOU'RE THERE, HOW COULD YOU LET HIM ESCAPE? YOU NEED TO DO A BETTER JOB
Well, now that's ...
I'm sorry. I'll track him down right now,
okay? ♡
Hold it, you two!
Which way did the Chief go?

THAT WAY.
Damn you...
You guys are the security attached to the Chief, right? What might happen if you aren't properly escorting him?!
...VERY SORRY.
THE CHIEF SAID "DON'T FOLLOW ..."

EIGHTH SECURITY GUARD OFFICER's ROOM
-So
You gave your own gun to the girl you were supposed to be escorting?
...WELL,
THAT'S... YOU SEE...

W-WELL...
W-WITH THE FINGERPRINT AUTHENTICATION... THERE WOULDN'T BE AN ACCIDENTAL SHOT... I THOUGHT.
I can't hear you, Naoya!

In the confusion it may have caused the target to kill herself, and what kind of guard would encourage that?
And if the authentication hadn't worked, what would you have done?!
That's your excuse!?
YES, MA'AM!
YES MA'AM!
SORRY!!

If something happened here, would you do the same to the staff members?
I'M S... SORRY.
NO.
..YES, MA'AM!
Why did you use the escort as a human shield during the battle?
And then what else?

That's not what I taught you.
Y-
YES, MA'AM!
I was pleased with the honesty of the report, but
push ups, Naoya!
...
YES-
...Even if I'd heard that this incident was your personal affair,
Naoya
うおお
EXCUSE ME FOR ACTING ON MY OWN...
Not at all
If it's your personal affair, you don't really need to be called here.

But I am the technique evaluator for the security garrison.
Re-garding this case,
da yau yaurself think yau handled it with a cool head?
.....
I CAN HANDLE ALL OF IT... FOR NOW.
If so, that's great.
I olso heord obout "Celcio".
Keep your cool wotch-ing her.
Go, Naoya. You have work to do.

SINK
WHEW
Oh!
There you are, Naoya-kun.
We've got an emer-gency!
MARI-SA-
!
Cel-cia's-
MARI-SAN, PLEASE LOAN ME YOUR CHEST.
What?

THAT WAS SCARY ...
IF YOU'D JUST GIVE ME YOUR CHEST I'M SURE I'D BECOME A STRONGER PERSON.
Get it together, Naoya-kun!
You must not become that kind of pathetic man!
I SWEAR!
HUH?
UM, OKAY.

Geez, more importantly-
It's terrible! Celcia's missing!
EH... WHAT?!

WHAT?!
WHY? HOW?!
I don't know.
When I stopped by your quarters earlier she wasn't there.
NO WAY...
IF SHE ISN'T THERE, SOMEBODY MUST HAVE SEEN HER WHEN SHE WENT.
THERE ARE GUARDS IN THE BARRACKS TOO.
About that... they say they haven't seen anyone, so I don't know!
...Disappeared?

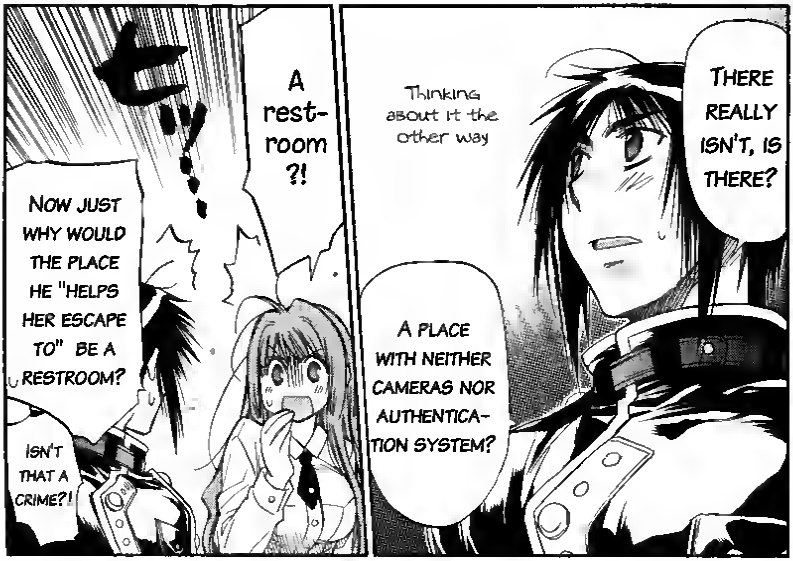
I've just told you to do your best watching after her
So reckless
Mari-san, what does this girl look like?
Blonde... I think she's certainly the type of girl that stands out.
Beautiful young girl Casual clothes.
Confirmed- Nobody has seen her
Everyone within the institute, from Lab 1 to 4.
Mira-san, uhm...
By the way, the Chief also...
I really am sorry about this,
But as long as you're looking
Also
detain a man with blonde hair, white jacket and sunglasses.
HIM AGAIN?!
Nao-ya,
you have any ideas?
...I HAVE NOTHING.
SHE'S NOT THE KIND OF GIRL THAT WOULD JUST GO WALKING AROUND ON HER OWN...
...I THINK.

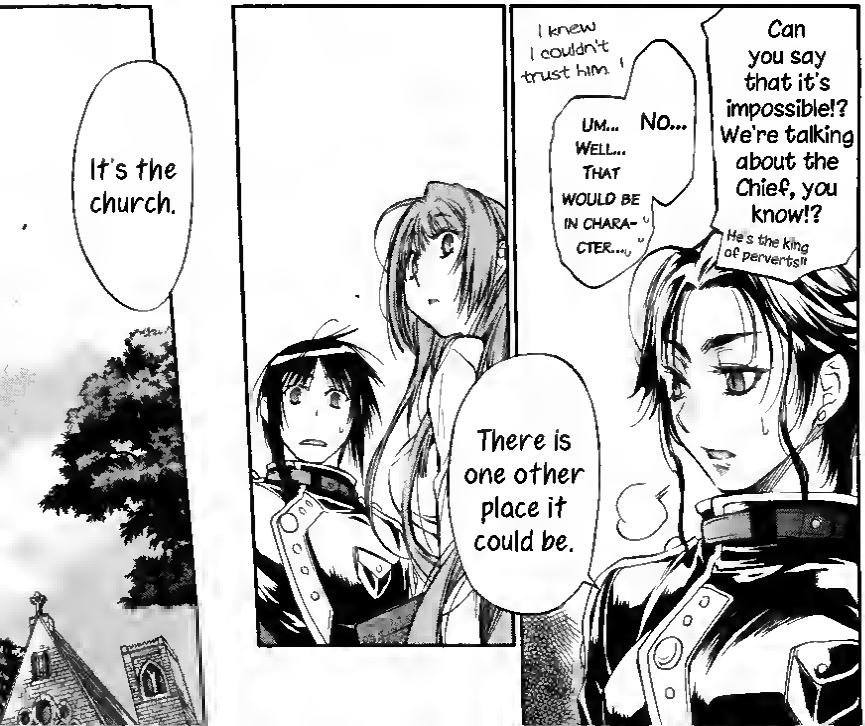
You think she was kidnapped?
IT CAN'T BE!
IN THE MIDDLE OF EIGHTH'S SECURITY?!
That's right. It is strange.
NO WAY...
I BROUGHT HER HERE TO KEEP HER SAFE...
EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS SCARED,
SHE BRAVELY ESCAPED AND CAME HERE.
THIS ISN'T A JOKE. I NEED TO STOP THIS...!
EIGHTH SECURITY CONTROL
...NO USE.
SHE DOESN'T APPEAR ANYWHERE.
NO WAY, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
RUN THE MOTION SENSORS AGAIN.

I wander why she didn't appear an a surveillance camera.
Each persan's identity is clearly verified.
There's nabady suspiciaus.
Facility persannel and autsiders gaing in and aut.
That girl is a narmal persan, right?
Wow-
IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN...
EVEN AS AN EIGHTH EMPLOYEE, I CAN AVOID THEM ONLY IF I KNOW THEY'RE THERE.
BUT THERE ARE GUARDS PRESENT, AND EVEN GETTING PAST SECURITY ON A FLOOR WOULD LEAVE A TRAIL, SO ADDED TO THIS, YOU CAN'T AVOID EVERYTHING.
TRUE. I WONDER IF I COULD...
Naoya,
would you be able ta avaid all the cameras?

Then it's really strange there's not a trace of her passing.
Could it be an inside job?
.....
YEAH, BUT...
HARDLY ANYONE EVEN KNOWS SHE'S HERE...
... Mari,
you're looking for the Chief, right?
Eh?!
No no, it's fine! Celcia's way more important!
Since just before noon, the Chief's ID stopped and hasn't moved.
What?
What the ...?
BUT I'M SURE HE RAN OFF...
OH YEAH.
WHY WOULD THE CHIEF ALSO HAVE GONE OFF THE RADAR?

I...
I spoke to the Chief about how to treat the girl.
HOW TO TREAT HER?
I want her to be safe, but somehow "Do not leave this room" seemed like a bit much.
Celcia seems so with-drawn.
So...
.....
With-drawn...
The Chief might have taken her out of here.
I don't see how... The only thing he could do is order the guards to keep quiet and use their IDs.
Holed up? If we don't do some-thing...
But they still haven't managed to capture him?
The first question is, just where is he now?


THERE REALLY ISN'T, IS THERE?
Thinking about it the other way
A PLACE WITH NEITHER CAMERAS NOR AUTHENTICATION SYSTEM?
A rest-room ?!
NOW JUST WHY WOULD THE PLACE HE "HELPS HER ESCAPE TO" BE A RESTROOM?
ISN'T THAT A CRIME?!


Can you say that it's impossible!? We're talking about the Chief, you know!?
He's the king of perverts!!
I knew I couldn't trust him.
UM... WELL... THAT WOULD BE IN CHARACTER...
NO...
There is one other place it could be.
It's the church.

YES!
THE CHIEF BROUGHT ME HERE!
ぼーん
HUH?
I SAID THE CHIEF BROUGHT M-
?
NO, THAT I GET, BUT WHAT'S...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, TAKING CELCIA HERE?
This is from the Security Director
WHAT KIND OF SECURITY DO WE HAVE ANYWAY?
ピキーン
YOU'RE LATE!
IT IS MY HONOR TO HAVE BEEN PUT ON CLEANING DUTY!
HE ALSO LOANED ME AN OUTFIT
WHY?
WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU BECAUSE YOU SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED!
AAH
I-I'M SO SORRY!
I I'M ALWAYS CAUSING TROUBLE
Naoya-kun! Celcia isn't in the wrong!
It's because the Chief brought her here without thinking!
The awful adult is the bad one!
TH-THAT'S... WELL...
WAA
NO! UM, IT'S FINE!
Hey!

I, UHM... I ASKED HIM.. TO PLEASE GIVE ME SOMETHING TO DO.
WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?
REALLY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING FOR ME.
SORRY
WAS MY ROOM THAT BAD?
OH!
NO! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL.
YOU KNOW, I-
IF I'M NOT USING THAT ABILITY OF MINE, I REALLY FEEL USELESS, NAOYA.
WHAT...!?
EHEH
THAT'S OKAY. I UNDERSTAND MY OWN SITUATION WELL.
BUT IF I DID USE MY POWER THERE'D BE FIGHTING LIKE BEFORE, SO THAT'S NOT HAPPENING.
I THOUGHT IT WAS A NO-WIN SITUATION...

SO I EXPLAINED ALL OF THAT TO THE CHIEF
AND HE WAS KIND ENOUGH TO LET ME WORK HERE IN THE CHURCH.
I'M STILL JUST GETTING STARTED, SO IT'S TOUGH, BUT..
I'LL GIVE IT MY ALL!
UM, NAOYA... FOR ME TO GET BETTER AT CLEANING, WILL YOU LET ME DO YOUR ROOM, TOO?
BUT YOU PUT AWAY THE PERVY BOOKS YOURSELF!
WAAH, SORRY!
Is it really okay if I wear this ?
Wow! It suits you! So cute!!
.....

WHAT'S WITH ALL THIS?
IT MAKES IT SEEM LIKE I WAS IN THE WRONG.
キィ、キィ、
WHAT DOES?
THE "TIERVY BOOKS"?
NO... ME TELLING HER "IT'S OKAY NOT TO USE YOUR POWER".
HMM... SO YOU SAID SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
THAT'S TOO BAD
!
WHAT IS?!
I KNEW IT! YOU'RE AFTER HER POWER TOO!
NAH... WITH HER POWER, YOU COULD "SHOOT" THREE TIMES WITHOUT HAVING TO PULL OUT ONCE.
And then you could shoot your load yet again.
In that case, you couldn't very well turn that down.
AAAH, USING HER LIKE THAT...
...THAT'D BE THE WORST
IT'S SIMPLY A MATTER OF MONEY.
HER ABILITY?

YOU HAVEN'T HEARD WHY PEOPLE WERE FIGHTING OVER IT?
NO... JUST THE SHORT VERSION.
USING HER ABILITY YOU CAN PRODUCE FASTER RESULTS IN EXPERIMENTS, SO IT'S HIGHLY SOUGHT AFTER.
WELL... YEAH, MORE OR LESS.
BUT ALONG WITH THAT YOU GET FIGHTING - IT'S AN ITEM PRIZED HIGHLY ENOUGH FOR PEOPLE TO KILL OTHERS FOR.
I DON'T REALLY GET IT, BUT...
CELCIA...
I REALLY THINK SHE'S HELD UP WELL UNDER SUCH TRYING CIRCUMSTANCES.

TL/N Matsui, a designer of popular cleaning products

EH, AREN'T MEN AND WOMEN THE SAME? ALL HUMAN?
PARTLY, YES.
SEX, HOWEVER, IS DETERMINED BY CHROMOSOMES.
THEY'RE NOT JUST SHAPED DIFFERENTLY, THE INFORMATION IS DIFFERENT TOO
THE MALE'S FORM IS SHORTER AND HAS FEWER GENES, SO IF THERE IS AN ERROR IT'S HARDER TO ADAPT.
IT'S 1000 VS 70.
.....
YOU'RE SAYING THE MALE'S FORM IS WEAKER?
So that's why we don't have it in us to have great tits.
I think the tits are fine the way they are
AM I?
I JUST THINK THEY'RE LIKE ANOTHER LIFE FORM.
...I MEAN, DO YOU KNOW THE KINDS OF MONSTERS YOU CAN ONLY FIND HIDDEN AWAY IN EIGHTH?
UM... SO... THAT'S... WELL...
Geez, Chief!
We can hear you! Please stop feeding weirdness to Naoya-kun!
HEY, GET OVER HERE.

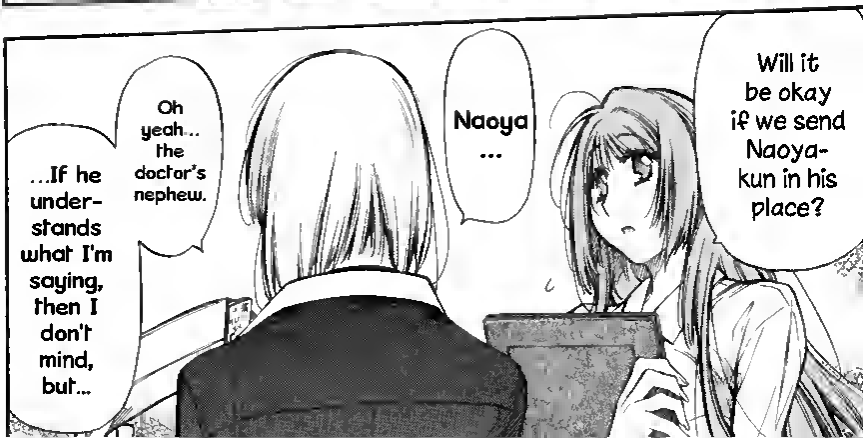
AH-
YEAH, YEAH...
Please call them and hear them out. They've been looking for you, so...
SFX: BEEP BEEP BEEP
There was a message from License on the way over.
HM? OH YEAH.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF WORKING RIGHT NOW. THIS IS A POINTLESS EXERCISE IN DAMAGE CONTROL!
You take care of the task!!
NO, YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG!
HUH?
I HAVE A LITTLE TASK FOR YOU.
RIGHT, NAO-YA.

FROM HERE YOU'LL HEAD ON OVER TO THE LICENSING DEPARTMENT.
EH?
JUST WHY HAS "CELCIA" BECOME SOMEONE OTHERS WILL FIGHT OVER TO THE POINT OF KILLING PEOPLE...? THAT ALONE WOULD ANSWER A LOT OF YOUR QUESTIONS, RIGHT?
EH ...?!
WH- WHAT'S GOING ON...?
I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND OUT WHEN YOU GET THERE.
TO TELL THE TRUTH, THIS IS SOMETHING I'M SUPPOSED TO DO, BUT YOU'LL GO IN MY PLACE.

N-N-NOW YOU J-JUST HOLD IT! YOU'RE JUST DECIDING THINGS ALL ON YOUR OWN!
They're at it again...
UM...
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT "LICEN-SE"?
Mmm, right.
It involves a department that manages various patents or "special permissions".
Things like... a contract for the exclusive use of an invention.
OH, I SEE
Like, if I were doing something at another research facility, it handles the special permis-sions needed.
AH,
THAT MAKES PERFECT SENSE...

An agent?
...You couldn't find the Doc?
No, that's not it! How can I put it...?
The Chief said something came up and couldn't go.


Will it be okay if we send Naoya-kun in his place?
Naoya ...
Oh yeah... the doctor's nephew.
...If he understands what I'm saying, then I don't mind, but...

Is that kid useful, Mari?
Oh yes! Just leave the details to me, Naomi-san.
He has a bit of a foul mouth,
but he's a young man, and he has the will to get things done for you. Why even the Chief...
...I see.
...Kid soldiers... I can't deal with them.
Uhm...
excuse me?!
SFX: DAZED

...That was a joke.
...I just felt like saying that.
I'm grateful for the arrangements.
Oh, it was nothing.
...Send Naoya along.
...If he's late, I'll break it.
Break what?
Naoya-kun...
It seems like even I'm nicer to him...

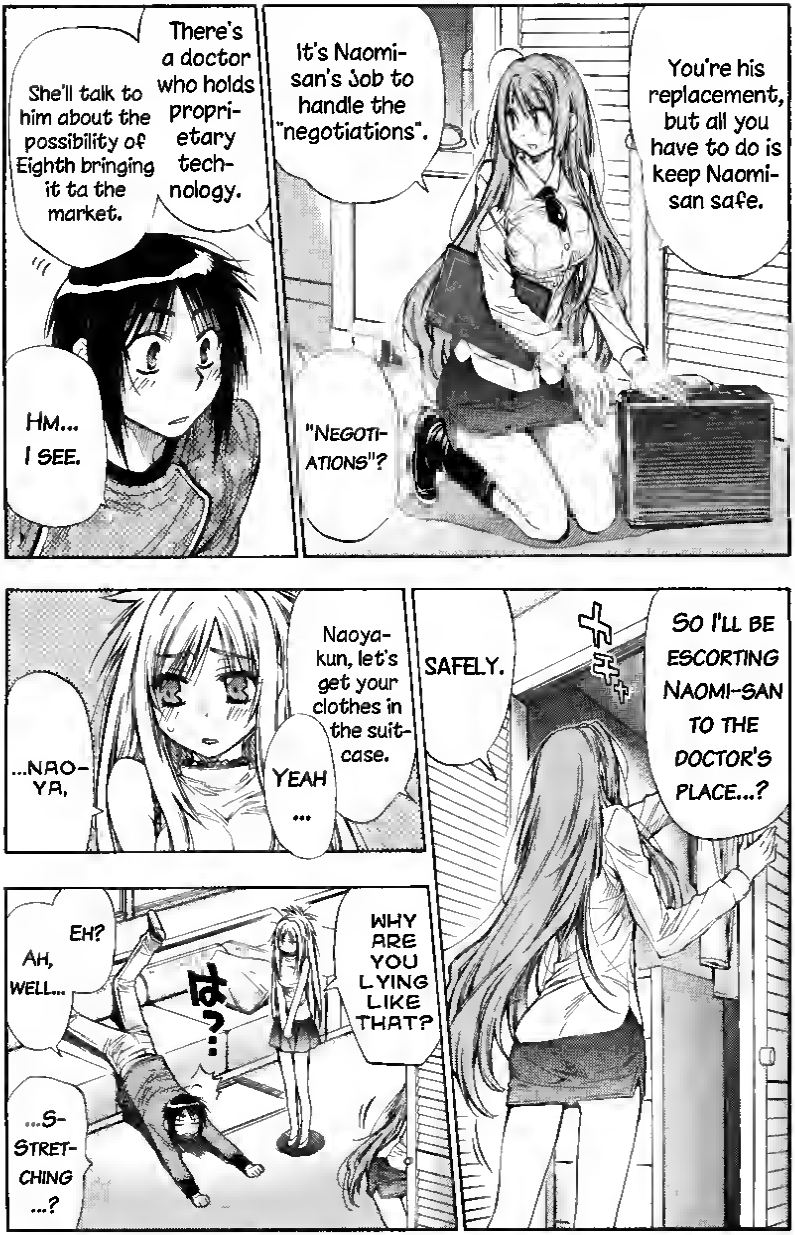
Eighth Security Guards must accompany staff members when they travel on business.
staying right beside them to keep them safe.
UGH...
PANT
SO... HOT...
PANT
GASP
HEY... NAOMI-SAN...
WHEEZE
ARE YOU OKAY ...?!
...?
...What was that?
That's what I'm doing right now...

...here in the Amazon.
WHY?!?!
WHA?!
HOW CAN YOU WEAR SUCH A RELAXED EXPRESSION?
AND WHY ARE WE HERE OF ALL PLACES?!!
...My metabolism is slower than yours.
OH...
THAT'S HOW IT IS FOR YOU?
META-BOLISM...?
It's not really warm at all for me
If you need a break, do as you like...
...and get bitten by a poisonous spider...
Damn it's hot
ARE YOU REALLY FINE WITHOUT A BREAK OR ANYTHING?
NO... I UNDERSTAND THAT, BUT...
It'll be fine if we just get this over with...

Operation.3
(オペレーション)

AMAZON EXPLORATION

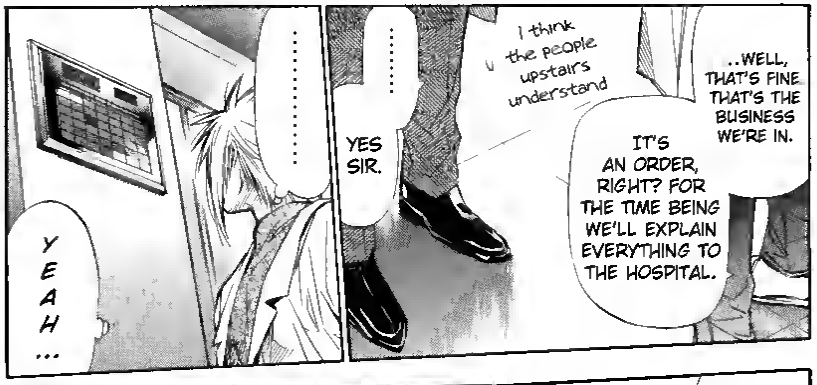
Just before all of that
Eighth Research Security Guard Housing
Hey, hey!
Get a move on!
ピンポーン
ピンポーン
Hey, Naoya-kun!
You need to hurry up and get ready.
I KNOW, I KNOW...
OUT OF THE BLUE, THE CHIEF DECLARED THAT I'D BE GOING IN HIS PLACE...
JUST WHAT IS IT THAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO?
Ah, about that-


You're his replacement, but all you have to do is keep Naomi-san safe.
It's Naomi-san's job to handle the "negotiations".
"NEGOTIATIONS"?
There's a doctor who holds proprietary technology.
She'll talk to him about the possibility of Eighth bringing it ta the market.
HM... I SEE.
SO I'LL BE ESCORTING NAOMI-SAN TO THE DOCTOR'S PLACE...?
SAFELY.
Naoya-kun, let's get your clothes in the suitcase.
YEAH ...
...NAOYA,
WHY ARE YOU LYING LIKE THAT?
は？
EH?
AH, WELL...
...S-STRETCHING ...?

DON'T LOOK!!
Ah!
Hey, you're hiding porn mags in here again!
SAYING SOMETHING LIKE THAT IN A MANLY WAY STILL DOESN'T MAKE IT OKAY.
A universal law ?!
...IF I CAN SEE IT, I WANT TO SEE IT, BUT WHAT DO I DO ABOUT THE THINGS I CAN'T SEE...?
The Chief's like that too. Maybe it's in your blood.
Don't compete in that way!
I'M INTO ASSES TOO!
SORRY SORRY SORRY SORRY!
PLEASE DON'T JUDGE ME FROM A FEW BOOKS.
Every-thing about 'em, huh?
You really like tits, don'cha?
HM?
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS?
... CHIEF,
EIGHTH RESEARCH
4TH LAB

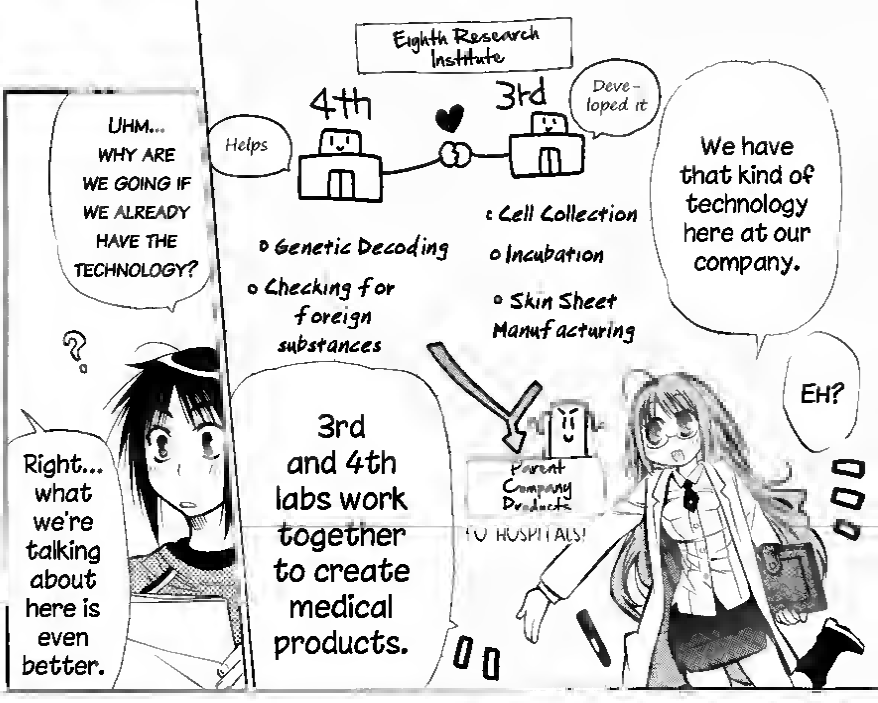
WHAT'S THIS?
FROM AN EMERGENCY CARE CENTER... AN ORDER FOR A SKIN TRANSPLANT?
YES SIR.
THERE'S A REQUEST FROM 3RD LAB FOR A GENETIC ANALYSIS ON THE COLLECTED CELLS.
IF THERE'S NO PROBLEM, WE CAN GET STARTED ON THE CULTURE AND PREPARE THE SKIN
A BURN PATIENT?
YES SIR.
"BOY, 8 YEARS OLD... BURNS JUST OVER 30%"... THEY'RE QUITE WIDE.
"THERE ARE SPOTS WHERE EVERY SKIN LAYER HAS BEEN DESTROYED"...
EVERY LAYER ...?!
...AH, WAIT... THIS IS...
THAT PAINTS A RATHER VIVID PICTURE.
Oh, It was a fire?
WELL, IF THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO.
EVEN USING EIGHTH'S PRODUCTS, WE CAN'T COVER UP WOUNDS THAT ARE THIS BAD.
PERHAPS...
BUT EIGHTH TECHNOLOGY IS THE BEST THERE IS.

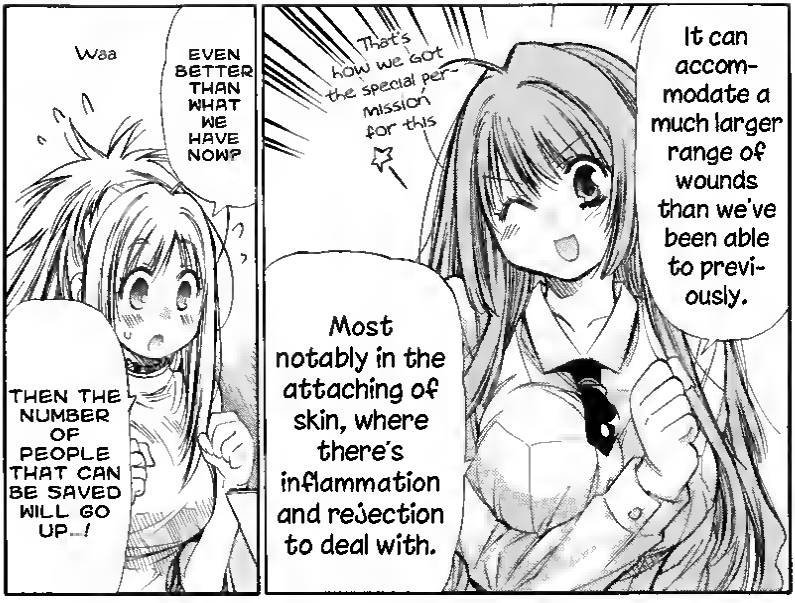
IT'S A MATTER OF "WHICH OPTION SHALL WE GO WITH?"
SO FOR HIM TO SURVIVE
BASED ON THIS, IF WE DON'T DO ANYTHING HE'LL DIE FOR SURE.
BUT SKIN CULTURES DON'T COME CHEAP.
IF IT WAS DONE BEFORE THE SKIN SEPERATED WE COULD DO IT,

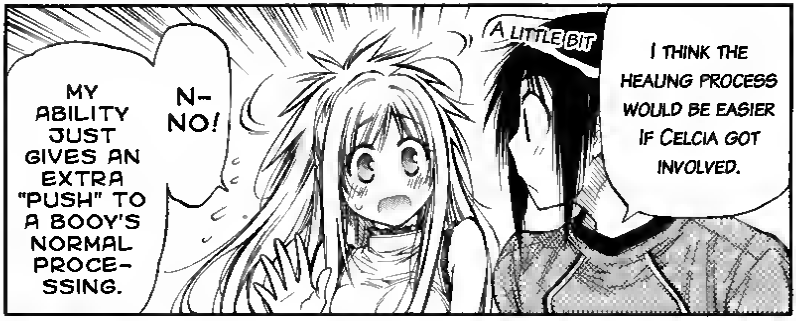

YEAH...
.....
YES SIR.
.....
I think the people upstairs understand
IT'S AN ORDER, RIGHT? FOR THE TIME BEING WE'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO THE HOSPITAL.
..WELL, THAT'S FINE THAT'S THE BUSINESS WE'RE IN.

WHETHER WE'LL MAKE IT IN TIME, HOWEVER, IS ANYONE'S GUESS...
...THIS IS SOMETHING I'VE BEEN WANTING TO DO ANYWAY.
EH?
OH... SURE. GO AHEAD
IS IT OKAY IF I BORROW YOUR PHONE FOR A MINUTE?

"SKIN GRAFTING TECHNOLOGY"...?
Right.
Now that our licensing department has already granted formal permission for it,
Naoya-kun will be going along.
HEY... WHEN YOU SAID IT WAS SOME KIND OF SKIN GRAFTING, I THOUGHT THIS WAS JUST SOMETHING THAT'S DONE ALL THE TIME
IT'S HEALING BURNS OR WHATEVER, RIGHT?
Healing them? Serious burns are life-threatening.
The standard procedure is to graft undamaged skin from other people.
The point is, there's a limit to what can be done.
We're talking about whole areas
In this situation, they have to take the person's cells and grow cultures until there's enough for the patient.


Eighth Research Institute
4th
3rd
Helps
Deve-loped it
Genetic Decoding
Checking for foreign substances
Cell Collection
Incubation
Skin Sheet Manufacturing
UHM... WHY ARE WE GOING IF WE ALREADY HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY?
Right... what we're talking about here is even better.
3rd and 4th labs work together to create medical products.
We have that kind of technology here at our company.
EH?
Parent Company Products
TO HOSPITALS!


Waa
EVEN BETTER THAN WHAT WE HAVE NOW?
THEN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT CAN BE SAVED WILL GO UP...!
That's how we got the special permission for this
Most notably in the attaching of skin, where there's inflammation and rejection to deal with.
It can accommodate a much larger range of wounds than we've been able to previously.


A LITTLE BIT
I THINK THE HEAUNG PROCESS WOULD BE EASIER IF CELCIA GOT INVOLVED.
N-NO!
MY ABILITY JUST GIVES AN EXTRA "PUSH" TO A BODY'S NORMAL PROCE-SSING.

IF I TRY TO HEAL SUCH GRAVE WOUNDS SO QUICKLY THE RESULTS COULD BE TERRIBLE.
IT'S JUST THAT... MY POWER WOULD USE UP ALL OF THE ENERGY IN A WEAK BODY.

IF YOU USE MY POWER, IT SHOULD BE WHEN YOU NEED A "CULTURE" DONE.
That's right...
In this case it'll be up to 3 weeks before the transplant can be done.
During that time they'll use artificial skin to keep him stable.
Anyway, it's a good one.
I SEE... THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WE CAN SAVE WILL DEFINITELY INCREASE.

But you know...
Sorry to say this, but that technology can't be used any time soon.
EEH?! WHY NOT?!
Because the company that created the finished goods went bankrupt and the license lapsed.
WHAT ??!
Keep it down
And because of that it's not on the market.
Moreover, the whereabouts of the doctor who developed it are unknown, so a discussion isn't...
AND WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT THAT?
Tsk tsk tsk. Like~ I~ said~
Eighth will somehow manage that part. ♡

Please go there for me, Naoya-kun.
As I mentioned earlier, the doctor's whereabouts are indeed unkown. However...
we do know his general location.
I SEE.
AAAH... IS THAT SO? EIGHTH IS LIKE A SIEVE FOR THAT KIND OF THING.
I'LL GIVE NAOMI-SAN A FIRST-CLASS ESCORT!
OF COURSE. THAT'S MY JOB!
Oh~ you're a great guy, Naoya-kun. Don't you think so, Celcia? ♡
EH?
AH, YES... I FEEL SAFE AROUND NAOYA-KUN.
NO, NO, NOT AT ALL.
WELL, YEAH... KINDA.
Maybe

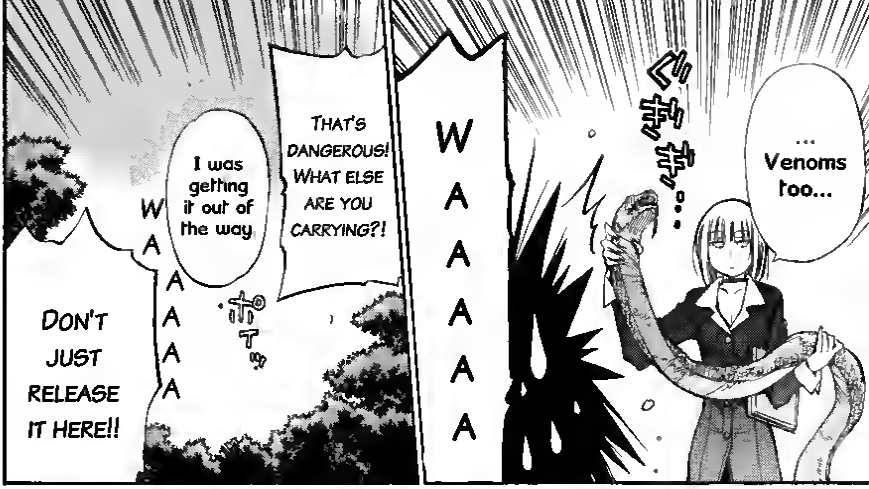
!?
MARI!!
Well, it's almost ti-
Oh... uhm, Naomi-san?!
...Which one of you is Naoya?
THAT WOULD BE ME...
Stand up straight!
YES MA'AM!
You were told to be on time, were you not?
What are you doing?!
EH?
HUH?!

Uh, hey! Er, what-- S-Sorry! I thought there was still time before the plane!
He's going to be beaten!?
Wai-... Huh?
WHAT? RIGHT NOW?!
LET'S GO. YOU'RE COMING WITH ME.
I'm sorry if I made a mistake...
It's been changed.
D... Did something happen, Naomi-san?
...The situation became "urgent",
but I intended to hurry it up regardless.
By me. Just now.

ドン

...HOW DO YOU PREPARE FOR A PLACE LIKE THAT?

NA... NAOMI-SAN...
HEY!
IS THERE REALLY A DOCTOR IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...?!
...A place like this ...?
WELL...
THEY'RE A DOCTOR WHO MADE A TECHNOLOGICAL BREAKTHROUGH IN "SKIN-GRAFTING".
WHY WOULD HE BE OUT HERE?
.....
Dr. Shinjou is a medical doctor.
OKAY...
It's my under-standing that
there are useful substances here nat yet being utilized.
AH- LIKE HERBS AND STUFF ...?


...
Venoms too...
WAAAAA
THAT'S DANGEROUS! WHAT ELSE ARE YOU CARRYING?!
I was getting it out of the way
WAAAA
DON'T JUST RELEASE IT HERE!!

That's a swamp.
...There are piranha in there.
...Well, piranhas are timid creatures...

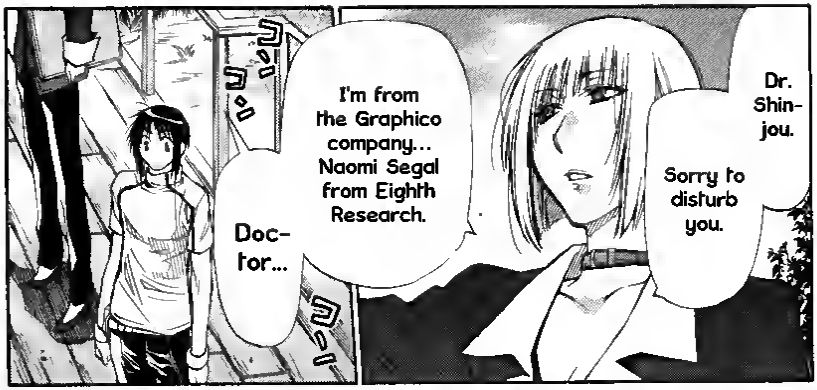
MOSQUITOES!
...
Listen, you...
I'M SORRY ...

...You're an Eighth security guard, aren't you?
Are you telling me you can't do any work outside of the institute?
If you're just going to get in the way, head back by yourself.
!
NO!
I'M SORRY! I'LL KEEP GOING!
I don't want apologies.
When it comes to work,
All that matters are RESULTS.
—If I have to tell you again that I'm in a hurry
BR...
I'll break it...!!
BREAK WHAT ...?!
I'm going ...
AH-
R-RIGHT.
I'M COMING TOO!

...I see...
SHE'S CUTTING ME WITH JUST HER TONGUE...
UWA--THROUGH
SHE'S GOTTEN THAT STERN FROM WORKING IN "NEGOTIATIONS".
YEAH...
URGH... SHE'S A PRETTY STRICT PERSON.
NO... IF I'M JUST SLOWING HER DOWN, THAT'S THE WAY IT HAS TO BE.
YET ANOTHER STRONG-WILLED WOMAN ...
SHE'D BE FINE BY HER-SELF...
NO, NO, NO! I'M AN EIGHTH SECURITY GUARD!
I EXIST SO THAT EIGHTH'S PEOPLE CAN DO THEIR JOBS.

IT REQUIRES A COOL HEAD!
Stepped in some shit...
どちっ
ガチャ
ガチャ
.....
ナナナ
ナナナ
AH-
A SHACK!
Yes...
Looks like Dr. Shinjou is renting this place to conduct research...
AH... HEY, YOU DON'T THINK...!

SO SCARY ...
God, you're such a weak-willed annoy-ance ..
What are you doing?
... Does it look like he's home?
.....
WELL... WE GOT HERE WITHOUT ME HAVING TO DO ANYTHING AT ALL...
Well, it's not like I don't under-stand...
EH?
I get scared before nego-tiations too.
!
Doctor.
A job where you "obsolutely have to bring it back with you without foil" is something you never get used to.


Dr. Shinjou.
Sorry to disturb you.
I'm from the Graphico company... Naomi Segal from Eighth Research.
Doctor...

Maybe he's out
What's going on?
HM... NO,
IT FEELS LIKE SOMEONE'S HERE.
EARLIER THERE WAS SOMETHING...
Oh, there's a window. I'll look inside.
...EXCUSE ME...

...But you'd like to see...
.....
HERE I GO...

!
HEY!

WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
INHALE

!
WHAT THE ...?!
GEEZ ...!!

YOU WERE TOLD NOT TO GO IN THERE, RIGHT?
THAT'S DADDY'S LABORA-TORY!!

...HUH?
WAI-
AH...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
OR RATHER ...
DON'T GET IN DADDY'S WAY!
JUST GO HOME!
YOU HAVE TO GET PROPER PERMIS-SION FIRST!
... Wait-
THEN SPILL YOUR NAME ALRE-ADY!
YOU'RE PICKING A FIGHT WITH SOMEONE YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW?
WHO ARE YOU?
WHO ARE YOU?

You're Dr. Shinjou's daughter, aren't you?
I'm Naomi, from Eighth Research Institute.
!
...8TH RESE-ARCH?
I have some-thing to discuss with your father.
Will you allow us to meet him?
NO WAY.
!?
I HATE RESE-ARCH FACI-LITIES
AND THE PEOPLE IN THEM!
!

WHAT ARE...
BE-CAUSE THEY ONLY DO FILTHY STUFF!
DADDY GOT SPECIAL PERMISSION TO COME HERE AND DO MEDICAL RESEARCH FOR THE BENEFIT OF EVERYONE!
IT'S BECAUSE PEOPLE LIKE YOU EXIST...!
H... WHAT?!
Wait, Naoya ...
She's talking about "bio-pirates".
BIO...?
They secretly take effective components back to their own countries and get patents for them.
Things in the wilderness of one country can become the proerty of people in other countries.
!
Taking them out is forbidden, you see.
Totally illegal.
Still, there are humans in this world who do just that.

I WONDER...
WELL, MA'AM, YOU'RE ONE THING, BUT...
But... Eighth isn't that kind of research facility.
Y-
YEAH! I'D NEVER EVEN HEARD OF THAT!
JUDGING BY YOUR FACE, IT'S A WONDER YOU UNDERSTOOD IT AT ALL.
YOU BITCH...!!
WE CAME HERE TO TALK TO THE DOCTOR!
HE CAME UP WITH AN INVENTION FOR SAVING PEOPLE, RIGHT?!
I HEARD THE COMPANY BROKE UP, SO IT CAN'T BE USED.
NOW EIGHTH WILL TAKE OVER AND...
... Nao-ya...
.....
WHAT WAS THAT...?!

HH!
TALK-ING LIKE YOU'RE ALL HIGH AND MIGH-TY!
SO SIMPLE-MINDED ...
YOU DON'T KNOW ANY-THING AT ALL, DO YOU?!
HOW LONG DADDY SUFF-ERED FOR IT...
THAT'S RIGHT ACTUALLY IMPLE-MENTING THE TECH-NOLOGY DADDY THOUGHT OF FOR TRANS-PLANTING SKIN TISSUE...
DO YOU KNOW HOW LONG IT TOOK HIM?!
10 YEARS!
EH ...?!

IT WORKS, BUT IF WE CAN'T GET APPROVAL IT CAN'T BE USED FOR THE BENEFIT OF EVERYONE.
WITH THAT IN MIND HE SENT DATA TO MANY COUNTRIES.
THEIR RESPONSES WERE "WE STILL DON'T KNOW".
WHAT IF "CLINICAL TRIALS" SHOW IT'S HARMFUL TO HUMAN LIFE?!
.....!
WITHOUT A FINISHED PRODUCT, THERE'S NO MONEY.
COMPANIES THAT SAY THINGS LIKE YOURS REFUSE TO INVEST IN IT.
"MONEY".
IT'S "MONEY" ...
WHAT'S WITH THAT?!
IN THE END, BECAUSE MY COUNTRY WOULDN'T APPROVE IT, THERE WASN'T ENOUGH TIME.
IT TOOK 10 YEARS !!
IN THE MIDST OF THE MANY PEOPLE WHO ENGAGE IN "PETTY LARCENY"...
IN ALL THAT TIME THERE WERE MANY PEOPLE WHO COULD HAVE BEEN SAVED BY DADDY'S RESEARCH!
--AH...

"I THINK I COULD DO IT IN 3 DAYS..."
"CEL-CIA" ...!
HEY, NAOMI-SAN.
.....
WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF YOU TAKE HIM BACK TO EIGHTH?
WHAT IF HE DOESN'T RECEIVE A PERMIT?
...You have a point.
WHISH
...Still, he'll be acknow-ledged by Eighth.
AND HOW WILL YOU DO THAT?!
What's with him all of a sudden ?
... How? The usual way.
You have another method ...?
...IT WOULD TAKE SOME TIME...
You're so annoying! What is it?

...My job is to bring him back to Eighth without fail.
We don't let useful technology stay buried,
Or at least I don't.
OH, ABSOLUTELY. IF HE WENT TO EIGHTH IT'D BE A BIG DEAL,
BUT IT'D BE FOR BUSI-NESS!
IF IT WASN'T PROFITABLE YOU'D JUST TOSS IT ASIDE!

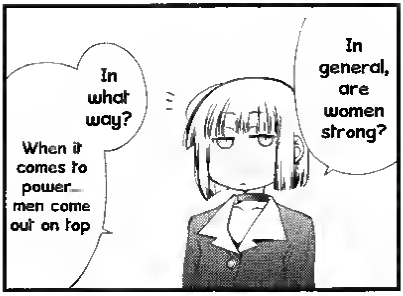
I'm quite aware of that,
Little Miss Princess.
You're persistent, aren't you?
Talking about money? About time?
Whoa
HOW DARE YOU...!! THERE'S NO WAY I'LL LET YOU SEE DADDY!
I HATE GROWN-UPS!
YOU'RE ALL LIARS! ALL SCUMBAGS!!
HOLD ON...
HEY...
...I see.
...And I hate child soldiers. They're such a pain in the ass...
EXCUSE ME?!

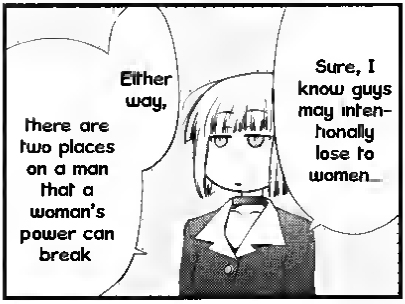
Naoya... that was a joke.
Oh...
...How fortunate.
You ARE useful after all.
Eh?
GYAAAAA

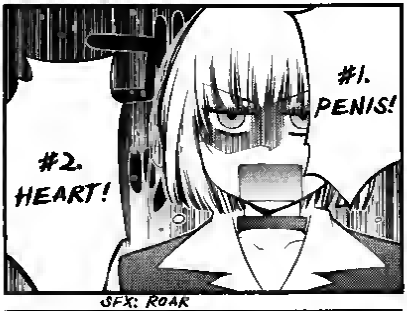
OOF
OUCH!
...You keep that girl occupied
and I'll go meet with the doctor...
WHAT --?!
W-WAI-WAIT!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
AND YOU! DON'T TOUCH ME!!
W A A A
SORRY! IT'S MY JOB...!
HM ...?

What's this?
Well, what is it?
What's all the comm-otion,
Hikaru?
ガ!
Doctor...
!!

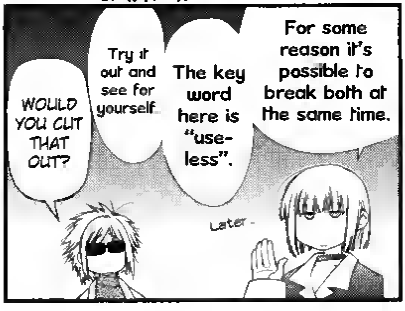
Hm?
What?
DADDY!
What are you doing?
Is he your boyfriend?


In general, are women strong?
In what way?
When it comes to power... men come out on top


Sure, I know guys may intentionally lose to women...
Either way,
there are two places on a man that a woman's power can break


#1. PENIS!
#2. HEART!

SFX: ROAR


For some reason it's possible to break both at the same time.
The key word here is "useless".
Try it out and see for yourself.
WOULD YOU CUT THAT OUT?
Later...

Hey there
DADDY!
What are you doing?
At least do it in the cabin
HOLD IT!
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO LAY ON ME?!
SORRY ABOUT THAT. CAN YOU STAND?
!
GRR ...

Operation.4

○○○,respectively.(それぞれに。)

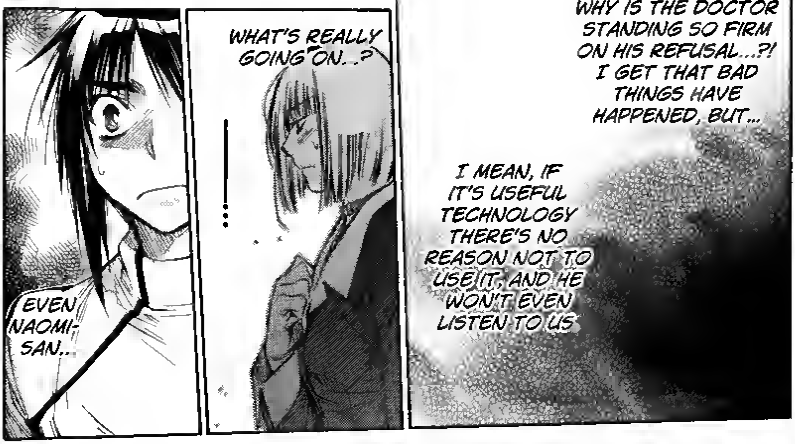
TO EACH HIS OWN.

Well now, what have we here?
A very beautiful onee-chan and a handsome young man, I'd say
Aha-ha!
It's fine! We don't get a lot of visitors out here, so let's make the most of it!
THIS IS DR. SHINJOU ...?
So?
What is it?
.....
NAOMI-SAN...
Doctor...
We have come with a humble request.

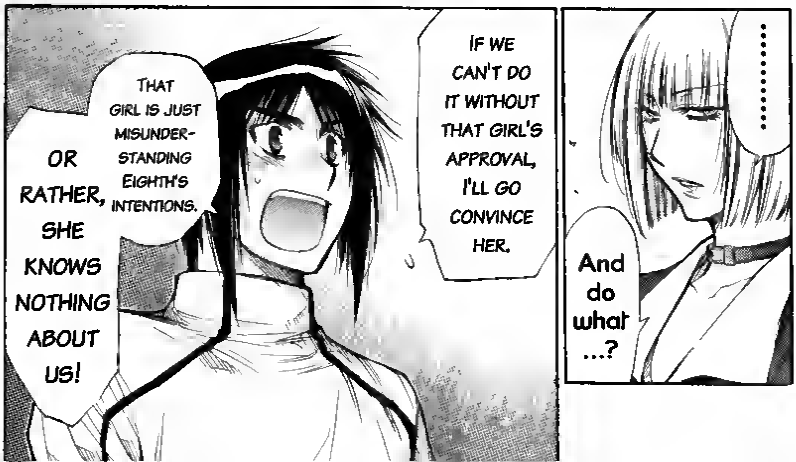
You'd like a license for the skin-grafting technique I created?
What?
So once again someone has come to a place like this just for that
DADDY!!
DON'T LISTEN TO THEM! THEY'RE AWFUL PEOPLE!
Hm? What? Is that so?
Hold.. Now just wait!
We haven't done anything!
"HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING"? DADDY, LISTEN-
Eh? When?!
TH-THIS GUY FELT MY CHEST!
WHAT?!
I NEVER DID ANY "FEELING"! ALL I DID WAS RESTRAIN HER!
THERE WASN'T ANYTHING TO FEEL!
JERK!!
Then it seems Hikaru was in the wrong

You seriously have no tact...
TH... THAT WASN'T WHAT I MEANT...
I mean I really didn't do anything.
ANY-WAY, DON'T GET DADDY INVOL-VED!
LEAVE DADDY ALONE!
NOTHING GOOD WILL COME OF LISTENING TO THEM!
H... HEY!
LET'S TALK THIS OVER...
SHADDAP!
.....
She may be in the wrong,
but if Hikaru says no I can't really grant you permission
!
Yeah

You have our deepest apologies, Dr. Shinjou
.....
Our delegation did not come here to engage in a dialogue with the young lady...
That may be true,
but...
If Hikaru rejects that strongly, I can't bring myself to do it
... Doctor,
let's talk this through!
Sorry, I've already made her sick of adult affairs
This is as far as I can go
Doctor!!
.....!?
WHY ...?


WHY IS THE DOCTOR STANDING SO FIRM ON HIS REFUSAL...?! I GET THAT BAD THINGS HAVE HAPPENED, BUT...
I MEAN, IF IT'S USEFUL TECHNOLOGY THERE'S NO REASON NOT TO USE IT, AND HE WON'T EVEN LISTEN TO US
WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON..?
EVEN NAOMI-SAN..

WHY IS SHE STAY-ING SILENT ?!
UHM, HEY...
NAOMI-SAN, I'LL GO!


IF WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT THAT GIRL'S APPROVAL, I'LL GO CONVINCE HER.
And do what ...?
THAT GIRL IS JUST MISUNDER-STANDING EIGHTH'S INTENTIONS.
OR RATHER, SHE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT US!

Eigh-th...?
PLEASE GIVE ME THE DOSSIER, MA'AM.
You won't be talking to her as a mere security guard.
BUT-

IF WE DRAG THE DOCTOR BACK WITH US AGAINST HIS WILL, IN HIKARU'S EYES IT'LL JUST MEAN THE NUMBER OF ABUSIVE RESEARCH FACILITIES HAS INCREASED BY ONE!

.....
Hm?
What?
It's fine, don't mind me
This is interesting. Go on, continue!

.....
..That is not something to be spoken about here and now in front of the doctor...
You know that we have technology for skin cultures at Eighth.
But right now
YES.
we have a patient that we can't save..
NOW?!
... Yes, right now.
At this very moment.
Until Eighth is able to get a national patent and get it out on the market,
we need Dr. Shinjou to perform the operation.
Even if it's merely a matter of authorization, we can't do without it.
As such, we can't afford not to bring the doctor's technology back with us.

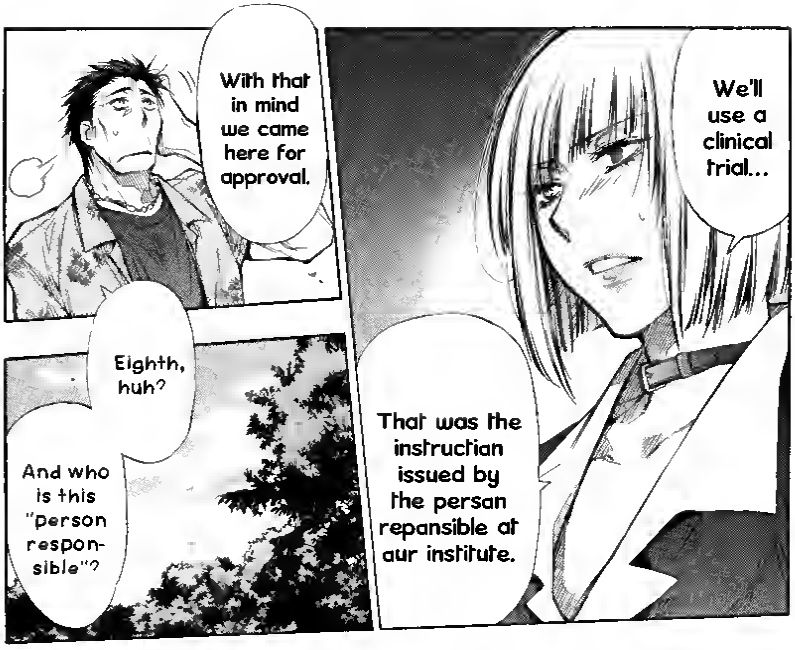
NGH...
What?
Another physician will be fine if he knows his stuff
.....
For the time being at least, if we can't get the one who created it to come...
...WE WON'T MAKE IT IN TIME ...?!
... Right.
... THIS PATIENT...
8 YEARS OLD...!
HE'S JUST A KID...
NNH...
DOCTOR!!
Hmm?

JUST WHAT REASON DO YOU HAVE NOT TO GO?!
Hm?
Something like "We won't make it in time"
I've heard many people with the same request
ISN'T IT STILL POSSIBLE TO MAKE IT THIS TIME?!
Okay then, get to it.

Naoya...
NAOMI-SAN...
This part is... where you make the request.
...I'M SORRY,
BUT...
.....
.....
Hey, hey now
You didn't really get on Hikaru's good side
Do you want that patient to die?
!

AH-
TH-THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
Nao-ya...
Are you going to be okay, walking through the forest all by yourself?
YES! JUST THIS ONCE I'LL MANAGE!
I'LL BE FINE! I'M OFF!!

Quickly!!!
YES MA'AM!!
...Doctor,
I really have no excuse for our manners.
What?
What?
Yeah, sorry I was being kind of harsh there
So show me the patient's file too
You were too, missy
You're so stubborn you didn't even mention that critical case
...This case aside, there's no reason to rush, so...
Or, what?
How will you use medical components without a proper license?


With that in mind we came here for approval.
We'll use a clinical trial...
Eighth, huh?
And who is this "person responsible"?
That was the instruction issued by the persan repansible at aur institute.

HIKARU!!!
HIKARU!!
HEY!!
WAIT!

JUST-
WHAT?!
STOP FOLLOW-ING ME!
WAIT UP!
LISTEN... LET ME EXPLAIN!!
WHAT'S WITH YOU?!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS, BUT YOU'RE SCARING ME... I'M SCARED!
PLEASE! JUST FOR A MINUTE!

NO WAY!
SOMEHOW I'VE GOT TO...
OH!
I'M SORRY FOR TOUCHING YOUR BODY!
IT WAS MY CHEST!!
ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY THERE'S NO DIFFERENCE?!
I DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT THAT RIGHT NOW...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?!
HIKARU!
AT THIS MOMENT
A CHILD'S LIFE IS IN DANGER! HE'S COVERED IN BURNS!
WE CAN'T SAVE HIM WITHOUT DR. SHINJOU!!

NOW HOLD ON!!
WAA!
WHOA!
YAAA
IDIOT!
SORRY, HIKARU. LISTEN. YOU SEE-
YOU... STOPPED SO SUDDENLY, SO...
LISTEN, YOU...

WHY DIDN'T YOU MENTION SOMETHING THAT IMPORTANT?!
WELL, FOR STARTERS, YOU DIDN'T LISTEN TO ONE THING I SAI-
SH-SHUT UP!
GIMME THAT!
IF YOU'D LISTENED TO ME BEFORE...
HOW'D IT HAPPEN?
A PERSON'S LIFE IS AT STAKE! IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE!
I JUST DO SECURITY WORK, SO IT'S UNUSUAL FOR ME TO SAY THIS, BUT...
THE TRUTH IS, I CAN'T USUALLY DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS, SINCE THIS IS PERSONAL INFORMATION.
I'VE SEEN DADDY'S WORK!
I... I KNOW THAT!
It'll probably piss off Naomi-san

PLEASE, I'M BEGGING YOU!
LET DR. SHINJOU COME TO EIGHTH.
HIKARU, PLEASE SAY YOU'LL FORGIVE ME.
PLEASE!!
GEH... YOU...
YOU SAY "PLEASE! PLEASE!", BUT...
DO YOU REALLY UNDERSTAND?
IT'S NOT CERTIFIED YET! YOU CAN'T USE IT!
WITH DR. SHINJOU'S HELP WE CAN!
WHAT? CLINICAL TRIALS?!
AS IN TESTS?
LIKE EXPERIMENTS ON HUMANS!? THAT'S THE ONLY WAY IT CAN BE DONE!
AFTER ENOUGH TESTING YOU CAN PROVE THAT IT'S SAFE AND EFFECTIVE,
BUT THAT WILL TAKE ANOTHER 10 YEARS!
AND THEN IT MUST BE EXPLAINED TO THE PATIENTS IN ORDER TO GET THEIR APPROVAL!
THERE'S A LONG LINE OF HURDLES TO GO THROUGH FOR APPROVAL WHEN DOING IT ETHICALLY.

AND IN LAYING THE GROUNDWORK WITH CLINICAL TRIALS THERE ARE PATIENTS THAT HATE IT, AND IT TAKES MONEY, TIME AND EFFORT!
EVERY-ONE'S TOO BUSY TO HELP!
NO-BODY'S HELP-ING HIM!
THAT'S WHAT DADDY'S DOING!
HE NEVER STOPPED TRYING TO GET HIS WORK APPROVED!
WHEN DADDY WORKED IN AN EMER-GENCY WARD
DADDY IS!
YOU'RE NOT DOING ANY OF THAT!
AND YOU WANT DADDY TO GO THROUGH THAT AGAIN!?

DO YOU FEEL LIKE THIS IS NOR-MAL?!
HEY! DO YOU THINK THAT'S FAIR?
AN-SWER ME!
...I THINK THAT WHETHER HE GOES OR NOT IS SOMETHING FOR THE DOCTOR TO DECIDE.
THAT'S RIGHT!
I'M SORRY. MAYBE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF A DOCTOR HAD COME INSTEAD OF ME...
BUT HE SAID THAT IF I COULD PERSUADE YOU HE WOULD GO SAVE THE KID.

FOR THIS CASE, THIS IS THE ONLY THING I CAN DO...
SO PLEASE!
HIKARU, PLEASE ASK THE DOCTOR FOR ME!
EIGHTH ISN'T A BAD PLACE. I THINK THEY'LL HELP OUT WITH THIS.
I KNOW NO-THING ABOUT THAT.
EIGHTH WILL HELP SAVE HIM, HOWEVER LONG IT TAKES, HOWEVER BIG A DEAL IT IS! I'M SURE OF IT.
I KNOW A CHILD WHO THEY SAVED!

IS THAT SO?
YOU SAY YOU DON'T REALLY UNDER-STAND IT?!
HIKA ...
DADDY SAID THIS WAS A GOOD PLACE!
THAT THIS IS A GOOD ENOUGH PLACE TO DO RESEA-RCH!
KYAA!!
OWW...

HEY! HOLD IT...!
!?
?
!?
SOME-ONE'S OUT THERE
AIMING AT US...
WHA ...?!
GET
DA MN
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
UNAU-THORIZED PERSONNEL MUST CLEAR THE AREA
LEAVE NOW!
!?

THEY'LL DEFINITELY REPORT THIS...
AH!
IT'S YOU TWO!
AREN'T YOU TWO THOSE BANDITS FROM YESTERDAY?!
YOU'RE STILL HERE? YOU WERE TOLD TO GET OUT!
PRETENDING TO BE POLICE... EVEN IF YOU HIDE YOUR FACES LIKE THAT, I RECOGNIZE YOU!
UHM... HIKARU,
Y-YOU'VE SEEN THEIR FACES BEFORE?!
I'VE SEEN 'EM!!
I EVEN CHASED THEM OFF YESTERDAY!
I'M SURE OF IT!
WE RETURNED THE THINGS WE TOOK, RIGHT?!
AH-
SO THEN THE REASON WE'VE BEEN TARGETED...
!

WHY ...
ドン!
ガッ
ガシッ
!
ナイ

ズシ
ズシ
ズシ

WHY!?
HI-KARU ...!
Ha-..

YOU ARE...
COME ON!
WAI...
WE CAN'T STAY HERE!
THEY'RE JUST A DISTRACTION!
DISTRACTION?
THEY'RE DOING SOMETHING BAD?!
I GET IT...
THAT WAS A STUN GUN. THEY WEREN'T OUT TO KILL.
JUST FORGET ABOUT THEM.

FORGET ABOUT THEM?!
WHY?!
WE HAVE OTHER CONCERNS.
I TOLD YOU, WE DON'T HAVE TIME.
WHY?
I'M...
WHAT IS IT?!
I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG!
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING! I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING WRONG!

I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING WRONG ...
I DIDN'T ...
I KNOW!
NO, YOU CAN'T! DADDY, YOU MIGHT DIE!
DADDY, NO...
DADDY!

YOU CAN'T KEEP WORKING YOURSELF TO DEATH LIKE THIS!
Is that so? Yeah, I guess
It's useless, huh?
DADDY, YOU'LL DIE BEFORE YOU CAN SAVE ANYONE!
Well, if you put it like that, Hikaru, there's no getting around it
WHAT ...
CAN ...
I DO...?
I NEED YOU, HIKARU!

WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN DO THIS, RIGHT?!
I'LL DO IT!
I'LL PLAY MY PART!
I'LL PROTECT HIM SOME-HOW.
HIKARU, I'LL PROTECT YOU TOO!
YOU'LL STOP WHEN A KID'S AT DEATH'S DOOR?
YOU'RE MAD AT ME BECAUSE YOU KNOW HOW HARD IT'LL BE ON THE DOCTOR.
IT'S AN AWFUL SITUA-TION...
YOU CAN'T TRUST EIGHTH SO YOU'RE PROTECTING THE DOCTOR!

IT'S FROM THAT SITU-ATION
THAT I'LL SAVE YOU!

!
NAOMI-SAAAN!
Nao-ya...
I BROUGHT HER BACK.
DOCTOR,
I FOR-MALLY REQUEST THAT
YOU PLEASE COME TO EIGHTH!
DADDY, SAVE HIM...!

IT'S ALL MY FAULT ...
YOU SEE,
UHM ...
THE ONLY THING STOPPING YOU IS ME...
WELL ...
Hikaru...
Your father is going.
I'm sorry to make you move to yet another home,
but we have to go.
I'm the only one that can do it...

You can finally say your father was able to save someone
C'mon Your Dad looks good when he's in action, huh?
Right?
GH...
TH...
THAT'S...
IT'S BECAUSE YOU SAID THAT THAT MOMMY RAN AWAY!!
Now wait a minute

Hey now, a girl that doesn't understand a man's heart isn't going to become popular
I won't be able to make you my bride
NEVER!!
Well ...
Yes, it was.
Now that was a rejection
Yeah, insta-kill
Sorry to say but
For now, we should get ready.
Yeah, yeah
HIKARU.
WE'RE GOING TOO.
THANK YOU!

I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING DESERVING OF YOUR THANKS!
IT'S FUNNY...
IDIOT.
THE ONE BEING SAVED THE MOST IS DADDY!
UH...

...
THANK YOU.
...NAH, I DIDN'T REALLY DO ANY-THING...
SHAD-DAP, YOU!
DADDY'S GOING TO THIS "EIGHTH" PLACE,
SO I'M GOING THERE TO CHECK IT OUT MYSELF!

WELCOME TO EIGHTH.
WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU,
DOCTOR SHINJOU.
Wow
I'M SORRY,
BUT WE DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY TIME. SHALL WE HEAD OVER TO THE LAB?
THERE'S A 4-MAN TEAM WE PUT TOGETHER IN THERE NOW.
SFX: CLACK CLACK

YOUR GENEROSITY IS OVERWHELMING.
Well, it is an emergency, after all
....HEY, WHO'S THAT SUNGLASSES GUY? SOME BIGSHOT?
AH, YEAH. THAT'S THE CHIEF OF EIGHTH.
YEAH, WELL...
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT, DR. SHINJOU.
HUH?
HEY!!! YOU KNOW EACH OTHER?!?!
HOLD EVERYTHING!!
HM? YEAH.
FROM WHEN I WAS A UNIVERSITY RESEARCHER.
Well... We're senpai-kouhai
I was a visiting researcher, so

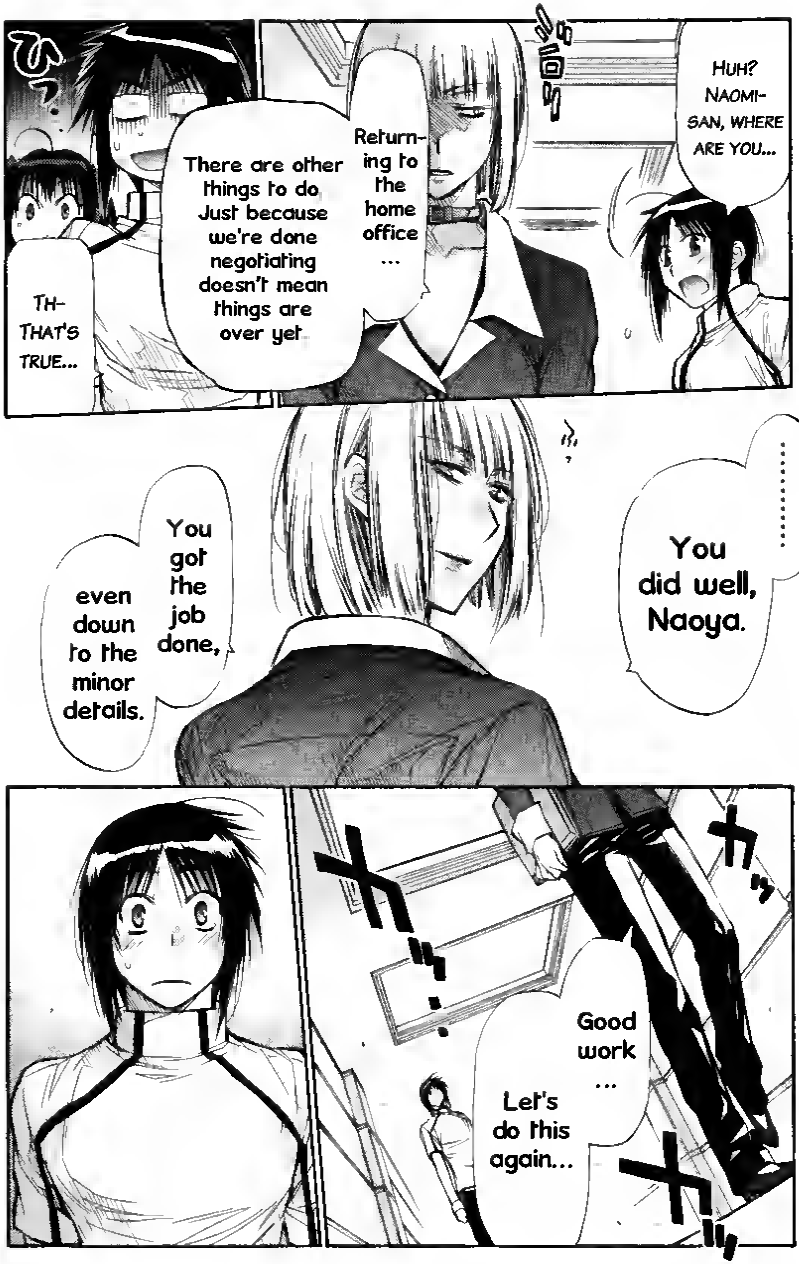
THEN YOU SHOULD HAVE GONE ...!!
IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS JUST PLAYING AROUND ...
You athletic types are so loud!
UH...
YOU DID HEAR ABOUT A "CLINICAL TRIAL", RIGHT?
WE'RE IN A TIME CRUNCH; I COULDN'T DO BOTH AT THE SAME TIME.
DR. SHINJOU, IS IT OKAY IF WE TAKE THIS TO THE U.S. TO GET IT APPROVED?
Erm ...

The truth is, I wanted this done in Japan
I'd be doing it for patients in my own country

I KNOW ...
AND THIS WILL ADHERE TO YOUR DESIRE.
EIGHTH ISN'T GOING TO HAVE A MONOPOLY ON THE TECHNOLOGY.

AND BECAUSE OF THAT, TRYING TO GET A LICENSE WAS A POINTLESS TASK.
ooiis
...No matter what,
the task at hand should be worked on.
Think nothing of it!
It becoming useless is a separate matter.
IT IS.
I just didn't want to stop.
The "where" of it didn't matter.
Shinya.
Is this the consensus at Eighth?
ABOUT THAT ...
WELL... EVEN SO...
NOTHING TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER A DYING PATIENT.
If there are similar goods from Eighth, they should sell them quietly
If that's how you do things, there should be opposition from your researchers
.....

FACED WITH THAT, THEY ALL FALL INTO LINE.
BESIDES, THERE'S A BUNCH OF OTHER COMPLI-CATED STUFF GOING ON.
THAT BEING SAID, PLEASE HURRY UP AND GO.
RAY,
Ah- you're right!
CHANGE THE DOCTOR'S GUARD.
YES SIR.
THE YOUNG LADY WILL STAY HERE.
UHM ...
EVERY-THING WE DO FROM HERE ON IS CLASS-IFIED.
Dr. Shin-ya...
I'm here too.
AH, RIGHT. GOOD WORK.


HUH? NAOMI-SAN, WHERE ARE YOU...
Returning to the home office ...
There are other things to do. Just because we're done negotiating doesn't mean things are over yet.
TH-THAT'S TRUE...
You did well, Naoya.
You got the job done, even down to the minor details.
Good work ...
Let's do this again...

YOU'VE BEEN BUSY, HAVEN'T YOU?
YOU DID EIGHTH SECURITY PROUD.
I WONDER ABOUT THAT...
IF IT'S ABOUT SAVING THE BURNT KID, THAT'S...

... WELL, EITHER WAY,
I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING AT ALL.
BUT DR. SHINJOU DID COME TO EIGHTH.
THAT'S WHY YOU WENT THERE.
BUT YOU UNDERSTAND MORE NOW, RIGHT? AND IT'S A BIG WORLD OUT THERE.
IN THIS CASE, THERE'S STILL NO GUARANTEE THAT WE'LL FIND A GENETIC MATCH THAT WON'T TRIGGER A REJECTION.
THERE'S STILL A MATCH AWAY FROM HOME GROUND IN GROWING THE SKIN CULTURE BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE,
EVEN WITH THIS ADVANCED TECHNO-LOGY.
MOREOVER, IF THE WOUNDS ARE AS BAD AS I THINK, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE THEM LOOK NICE.

I THINK SOME PEOPLE WOULD EVEN MUMBLE THINGS LIKE
"HE'D BE BETTER OFF DEAD".
ALL OF THAT TAKES MONEY.
IN THE U.S., THE TWO BIGGEST REASONS FOR BANK-RUPTCY ARE DIVORCE AND MEDICAL EXPENSES.
A DOCTOR WANTING TO USE IT IN A LOW-COST JAPANESE HOSPI-TAL IS ONE THING. A CLINICAL TRIAL IS DIFFERENT.
I...
I WAS TOLD THAT WE CAN'T WORK
TO RESCUE SOME-ONE.
NAH, WE CAN'T.
THAT WOULD GO AGAINST EVERYTHING EIGHTH STANDS FOR.
EIGHTH IS CONCERNED WITH ALL MANNER OF THINGS ASSOCIATED WITH "GENETICS".
NOT JUST MEDICAL COMPONENTS LIKE THESE; THE DRIVE FOR SIMPLICITY IS INCREDIBLE! A MILLION AND ONE USES!

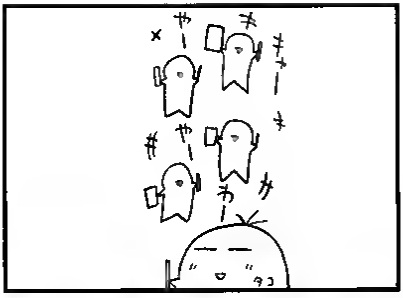
I THINK WE'RE DOING EVERY-THING WE CAN.
THAT'S THE REASON I TOOK THIS JOB AS EIGHTH'S DIRECTOR.
YOU WANTED TO SAVE PEOPLE, SO YOU JOINED A FACILITY WHERE YOU COULD BE A SECURITY GUARD...
...AND YOU'RE ALL RESCUED CHILDREN.
IT'S ALL POSSIBLE BECAUSE I SAVED YOU.

LATER.
THE REST IS UP TO GOD.
Hey
.....
EIGHTH HAS A CHIEF LIKE THAT...
I'D THOUGHT HE'D BE A GANG-STER.
SORRY
HE HE ...
SOME-TIMES HE DOES MESS AROUND...
DON'T TELL ME... THE KID EIGHTH RESCUED IS YOU?
Tell me!
THAT'S WHY YOU BECAME A SECURITY GUARD?
LET...
LET IT GO. IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.

WHAT? IS IT EMBARASSING?
WHAT'S GOING ON? HEY!
Tell me!
So...
Naoya-kun, you've brought a girl to your room again?!
Isn't she cute?
おおおぉ〜
NEVERMIND! GEEZ...
I'M GOING BACK TOO!
Stop hitting me!
Aww~ Her father's in the middle of a project right now,
so isn't it okay?
YOU NEVER LISTEN TO ME, NO MATTER WHAT!
NO, NO, NO!

I heard you were left behind.
WOW!!
MARI-SAN! I'VE HARDLY EVER MET GIRLS MY OWN AGE BEFORE!
Wow! Uhm what should I do?
OH?
WELL, ARE YOU GOING TO SAY ANYTHING?
Y-
YES!
UHM, YOU'RE HIKARU-SAN, RIGHT?
EH? OH, YEAH.
Damn I'm tired
MY NAME IS CELCIA!
UH ...
UHM...

IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU, I'D LIKE TO BECOME FRIE-
EH?
EH?! HEY ...
W-
WELL I'M SORRY IF MINE DON'T STAND OUT!!
なお!!
Hmm?
I can't go to sleep like this!!
WHAT NOW!?!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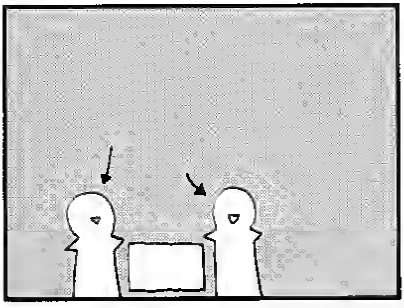

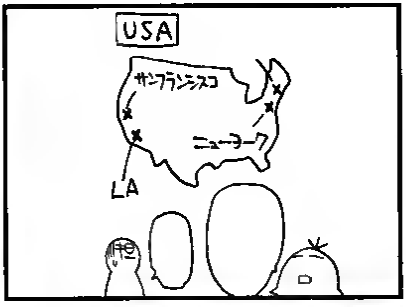
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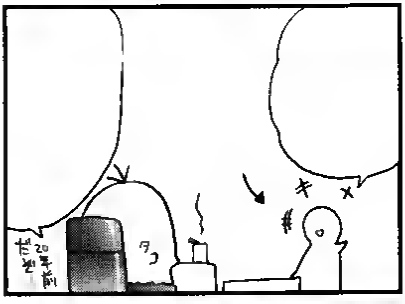
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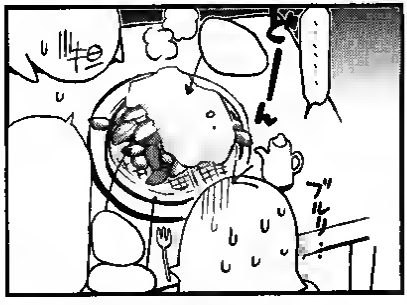
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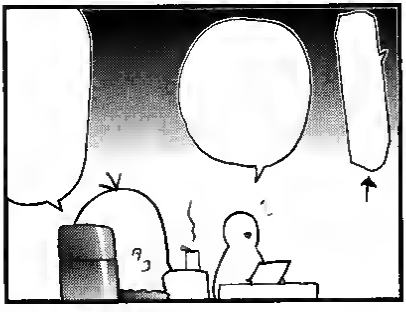
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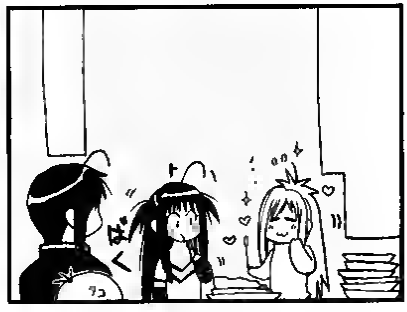
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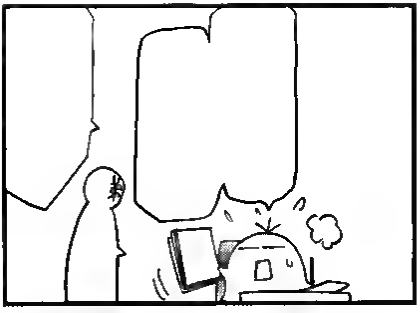
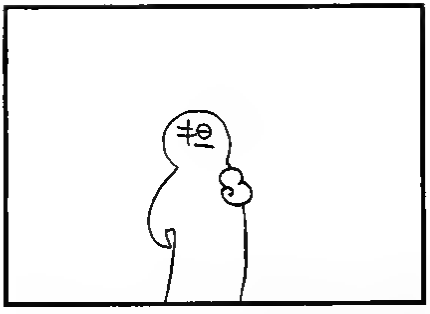
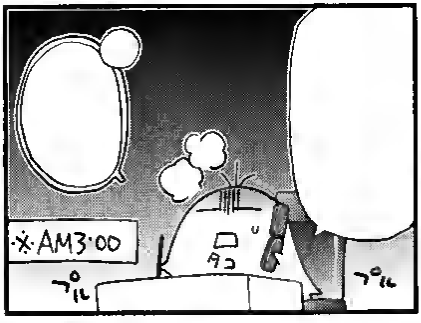
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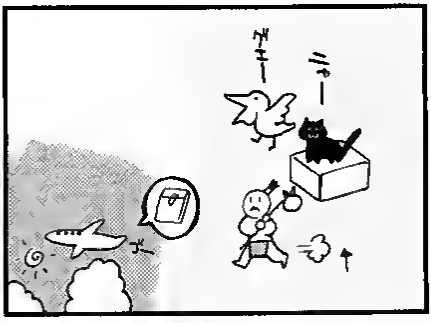
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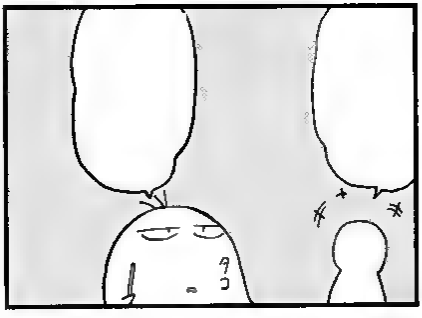
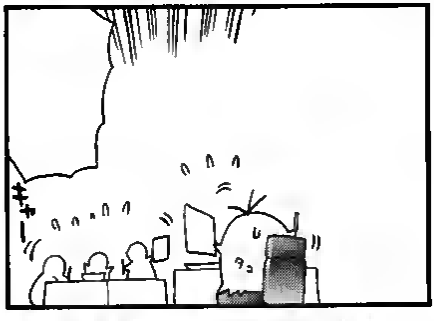
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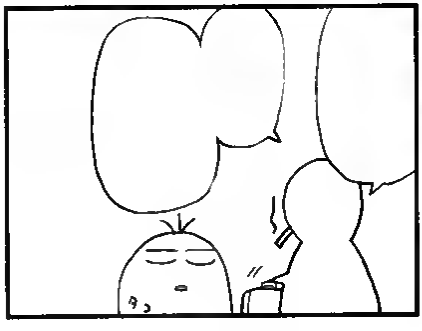
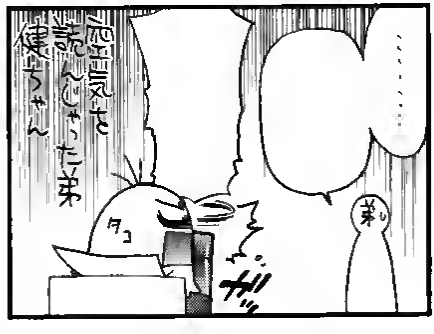
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ぼっちゃん

おとしまえ
ぷぅ
EIGHTH #1
STAFF

ガンガンコミックスJOKER
GC JOKER

EIGHTH

1

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